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AGRI-NEWS

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September 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Shipping Fever Pneumonia In Recently Weaned And Newly Arrived Feedlot Cattle 1

Correction (Food Trade Show Scheduled for Alberta) 3

Canola Combining 4

Grainguard 7

Mushroom Collecting 8

Leduc Area Resident Receives Major Scholarship 10

Scholarship Applicants Sought 11

Rose Hips And Mountain Ash Berries 12

Potpourris 14

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

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SHIPPING FEVER PNEUMONIA IN RECENTLY WEANED AND NEWLY ARRIVED FEEDLOT CATTLE

The incidence of shipping fever pneumonia is highest in recently weaned beef calves and feedlot cattle.

It is the term used to describe the respiratory infection that most frequently occurs in young cattle after they have been stressed by handling, transportation or bad weather. Pneumonia is the most common form of shipping fever in cattle.

The stress involved in handling recently weaned calves and recently arrived feedlot cattle is believed to be a very important factor in shipping fever pneumonia. The actual weaning of the calves is frequently associated with considerable stress, especially if they are moved to strange surroundings where they encounter strange feeding and watering systems. The mixing and confining of weaned calves, often in crowded corrals, is also stressful as is a rapid change in the weather or an unexpected snow storm. For this reason beef calves should be weaned well in advance of anticipated bad weather — ideally in September or October.

Dr. Otto Radostits of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon believes it is only common sense to begin feeding hay to calves and providing them with water at least two weeks before they are to be weaned and to do this in the corral into which they will subsequently be weaned. Weaning of calves at least two weeks before they are shipped is also considered a desirable practice. Shipping fever pneumonia usually occurs in beef calves within two to three weeks after they have been weaned.

During transit, young cattle should always have adequate bedding and they should be given water and hay at least every 24 hours during a long journey. They should also be rested for eight to 12 hours every 24 hours.

Dr. Radostits says an outbreak of shipping fever pneumonia in a group of cattle that have recently arrived in a feedlot may last for two to three weeks, depending upon their

- (cont'd) -

Shipping Fever Pneumonia In Recently Weaned And Newly Arrived Feedlot Cattle (cont'd)

condition. Such an outbreak usually occurs from five to 14 days after the animals have been stressed, and sudden deaths may be the first sign of the outbreak. In feedlots where a large number of cattle are being processed, about half of those that die from shipping fever pneumonia may be found dead without there having been any previous sign of the disease. Dr. Radostits says up to 35 per cent of recently arrived cattle may become affected and that 5 to 10 per cent of those may die.

The issue of whether or not cattle should be processed as soon as they arrive in a feedlot or after a rest period of two to three weeks still has not been resolved, but Dr. Radostits believes that it is only logical to allow stressed cattle to rest for 10 days to two weeks before handling them and vaccinating them with a live virus vaccine. He also believes that the provision of good quality palatable hay during the first two weeks that the cattle are adjusting is a sensible and safe approach. Placing young cattle on a high energy feed too quickly can cause shipping fever pneumonia.

There is apparently considerable interest among cattlemen in the medication of the drinking water and/or feed of newly arrived feedlot cattle with antibiotics or sulfonamides to treat those that are incubating diseases before they become visibly sick. Another objective is to provide follow-up treatment for animals that may have been treated individually. However, Dr. Radostits says this mass medication is not totally reliable.

"It appears", he says, "that animals in the early stages of the diseases may not always drink enough medicated water or eat enough medicated feed. In addition, medication of the feed or water for those cattle that would not normally become ill is uneconomical. Another problem is the provision of a uniform concentration of drug in the water supply either through automatic water proportioners in the water line or by placing the drug directly into water tanks. Both can be unreliable."

- (cont'd) -

Shipping Fever Pneumonia In Recently Weaned And Newly Arrived Feedlot Cattle (cont'd)

If you would like more information on shipping fever pneumonia including its symptoms, treating individual animals, treating pen groups, the use of vaccines, etc., you should get a copy of a publication entitled "Shipping Fever Pneumonia". It was written by Dr. Radostits and can be obtained from your district agriculturist or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

CORRECTION

In the article entitled "Food Trade Show Scheduled for Alberta" (August 31 issue of Agri-News), the first sentence of the fourth paragraph should read: "The trade fair is being held to coincide with Safeway's annual meeting so that the opinions of the executives and their wives about the products can be passed on to the Canada Safeway Export Development Department."

- 30 -

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September 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANOLA COMBINING

by Andy Birch
District Agriculturist, Stettler

A canola crop is ready to combine when its moisture content is 10.5 per cent or lower. If there are still some green seeds, wait a few more days. Green seeds will ripen in the swath but they will not ripen after they have been combined. Crush the seeds before you combine to make sure that they are not green inside.

Check-out Combine

Before starting to combine, go over your combine thoroughly. Plug holes and areas worn through the table cover with caulking compound or masking tape. Leakages can occur through the stone trap, top of the feeder housing and the lower inspection doors on the elevators.

Pick-up Adjustment

Set the pick-up height low enough to just get under the swath. If the pick-up is too high or the speed too fast, the swath will be dragged and jerked up onto the table. If, on the other hand, it is too slow, the swath will be pushed and the crop will be fed into the cylinder in bunches. To ensure that the swath is gently lifted onto the table without any tearing or bunching, the pick-up speed should be equal to the forward travel speed.

Table Auger

Set the auger low enough to clear the straw from the table and minimize shelling. Start with a clearance of 3/8 to 1/2 inch. Too little clearance will result in broken straws, shelling and seed loss. Also check the auger to make sure that it is level and that the clearance is the same at both ends.

- (cont'd) -

Canola Combining (cont'd)

Feeder Chain

The feeder chain can float to conform with the crop entering the elevator. Since canola swaths are usually large (6-8 feet wide and 1-2 feet thick), taking the pressure off the conveyor chain may help reduce shattering. However, it should not be so loose that the wad is not moving smoothly and evenly into the cylinder.

Cylinder Speed

The cylinder speed should be set at about 1/2 to 2/3 of that used to thresh cereals. Set it just fast enough to rub the seeds out of the pods. If the speed is too fast, the straw will break and the sieves will become overloaded. Too slow a speed will result in many unbroken pods that must pass through the return or that will be lost out the back by riding over on the sieve.

As a guide, you could start with a cylinder speed of 600 rpm, but be prepared to change it to conform with the conditions you have.

Concave Setting

The concaves should be opened so that the stems and pods are not broken any more than is necessary. The setting should be one that does the best threshing the first time through the combine and keeps the returns low. Poor threshing leads to an excessive load on the return and the chance of increased losses over the sieves. For good threshing concave clearance at the front should be fairly wide (about 5/8 inch) and narrow at the rear (about 1/8 to 1/4 inch).

Chaffer and Clean Grain Sieve

The top sieve of the chaffer should be open enough (1/4 to 1/3 or 1/4 to 3/8 of an inch) to prevent seed loss. These openings will allow the air to lift the chaff with a shaking action as it is moves along the sieve. Increase the shoe speed by 10 per cent if possible.

- (cont'd) -

Canola Combining (cont'd)

The chaffer extension should be raised slightly (5° to 10°) at the rear and opened sufficiently to allow unthreshed pods to pass through into the return.

The lower sieve should be nearly closed (1/8 to 1/4 inch). The sieve may be open too much if there is a lot of trash in the grain tank. If the sample is too clean, the seed may be going over the back and the sieves may have to be opened slightly. Excessive returns, which result in the seed being cracked, can overload one section of the machine and cause high losses. If the returns are too high, there may be too much wind, not enough wind or the top sieve may be open too much. There should be as little as possible going into the returns.

Wind Adjustment

Since canola seeds are light they are easily blown out of the combine. To maintain an adequate volume of air, reduce the fan speed and open the shutters. If there is a large amount of trash in the return, or the seed is riding over the chaffer, increase the wind speed. If the seed is being blown out, lower the wind speed. Start with a low fan speed and gradually increases it until separation of the chaff and the seed occurs with no canola being blown over the chaffer sieve.

To do a good job of combining canola a skilled operator and a properly adjusted machine are required. Varying field, crop and weather conditions often necessitate adjustments.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAINGUARD

If you have had grain stolen in the past or are worried about it being stolen in the future from bins that are some distance from your farmstead, you might be wise to consider using Grainguard, says Murray McLelland, supervisor of cereal crops with Alberta Agriculture.

Grain thefts are becoming more common as farms become larger and grain often has been stored many miles from the farmstead. And large trucks and high capacity grain augers, which aid thieves, have added to the problem.

What is Grainguard? It is confetti-like pieces of paper that each contain the same identifying number that is registered in the purchasers name. That number, which is also registered with the RCMP in the area in which the purchaser lives, is not used again unless it is re-ordered. If a farmer's supply of Grainguard should be stolen, the number would be cancelled.

The use of Grainguard to protect grain and oilseeds against theft has been approved by Canadian grain authorities, and grain containing it will be accepted by any elevator company.

In addition to discouraging theft, Grainguard helps police to identify the grain if it is stolen. Stolen grain that is found in transit or in somebody else's bin is virtually impossible to identify unless it contains something like Grainguard.

Grainguard should be thoroughly mixed in with the grain or oilseeds, preferably as it is being augered into the bin at harvest time, so that any that is removed from the top, middle or bottom of the pile will contain some of the confetti-like papers.

Each order of Grainguard is accompanied by cards that are designed to be attached to bins in which it has been used. These cards state that the grain is protected against theft by a registered Grainguard theft deterrent.

Grainguard costs $55 for a five pound bag, which is enough for 30,000 bushels of grain or oilseeds. It can be obtained from the Independent Printer, Box 40, Biggar, Saskatchewan, SOK OMO (Telephone: 306-948-3344).

- 30 -

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September 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSHROOM COLLECTING

You should get a copy of a federal publication entitled "Mushroom Collecting for Beginners", if you like mushrooms but do not know which of the wild ones are safe to eat and which are not safe.

The edible species included in the publication are all common and easily recognizable if the characteristics described are carefully observed. And some of them can be found at almost any time during the growing season, providing conditions are sufficiently moist.

The publication stresses that there is no simple rule or test for distinguishing edible from poisonous mushrooms. Many people think that it is possible to distinguish between the two with tests, and some people even believe that they know the tests. This attitude is more dangerous than complete ignorance because such so-called tests are now known to be worthless.

For example, it is not true that if a mushroom peels it is safe to eat. According to "Mushroom Collecting for Beginners" the Destroying Angel, the most deadly species known, peels very readily. Furthermore, since the poisons produced by such mushrooms as the Destroying Angel and the Fly Agaric are quite different chemically, it is not reasonable to believe that a simple test such as the blackening of silver will detect both types of poison. Actually, there is no evidence to substantiate that this test will detect either type of poison.

Although there is no simple rule for distinguishing between edible and poisonous mushrooms, a layman who is properly informed can enjoy a tasty mushroom dish safely. With a little study and careful observation, it is comparatively easy for anyone to become acquainted with half a dozen or so species and to be able to recognize them on sight.

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Mushroom Collecting (cont'd)

Most libraries contain books on mushroom collecting and identification. And "Mushroom Collecting for Beginners" contains a detailed description and illustrations of common edible and poisonous species. It can be obtained from district agriculturists or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

September 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEDUC AREA RESIDENT RECEIVES MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP

Jady Grad has won a $3,000 scholarship, jointly sponsored by the Alberta Dairymen's Association and Alberta Agriculture.

Offered for the first time, the scholarship is available to Alberta residents who are enrolled in post-secondary institutions which offer degree programs in dairy husbandry or a closely related discipline. Preference is given to individuals with a farm background and 4-H experience.

Jady Grad

Mr. Grad, son of Len and Bonnie of Leduc, will be entering the fourth year of a dairy husbandry program at California Polytechnical State University in San Luis Obispo, California, this fall. He has been actively involved in the family dairy operation and received numerous awards during his five-year tenure in the 4-H program. He was president of Alberta's first senior dairy management club in Leduc and has maintained an outstanding scholastic record during his high school and university years.

Mr. Grad's goals include a return to Alberta upon completion of university and the establishment of a successful dairy farming enterprise.

- 30 -

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September 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS SOUGHT

The Alberta Dairymen's Association and Alberta Agriculture are offering a $3,000 scholarship to Alberta residents who are enrolled in a post-secondary institution which offers degree programs in dairy husbandry or a closely related discipline.

To be eligible an applicant must be entering his or her third or fourth year of an undergraduate degree program or be undertaking postgraduate study. Applicants must have an outstanding scholastic record, and a farm background and 4-H experience is an advantage.

Application forms and further information concerning this scholarship, tenable either for the fall 1981 or the winter 1982 university sessions, can be obtained from:

Doug Bienert
Supervisor of Field Services
4-H Branch, Alberta Agriculture
9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8

The application deadline is January 1, 1982.

- 30 -

one (403) 427-2137

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ROSE HIPS AND MOUNTAIN ASH BERRIES

Rose hips can be gathered and used any time during the fall and winter, but they are better for eating before their outer rind has been softened by frost.

Helen Raynard of Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory in Edmonton says that rose hips are famous as a source of vitamin C, and that one study found that three rose hips contain as much vitamin C as an orange.

She also says the seeds of rose hips should be removed either by hand or by straining the prepared juice because the small, sliver-like hairs on the seeds can catch in the throat or digestive tract. Apparently the seeds are sometimes ground up after the hairs have been removed because of their high concentration of vitamin E.

Ms. Raynard suggests using seeded rose hips raw in salads, sandwich fillings or desserts. They can also be cooked and the juice used in syrup or jelly.

Mountain Ash Berries

Mountain ash berries make a light red jelly with a sharp, sometimes bitter flavor. It is usually served with game, lamb or pork.

"Mountain ash berries" says Ms. Raynard, "are often combined with crabapples, apples or citrus fruits to make jelly, jam or marmalade." They are also often used to make brandy, wine and liqueurs, especially in Europe.

The bitterness of mountain ash berries is due to the tannin they contain. Because of this they should be used in moderation, and prolonged boiling should be avoided because it will extract more of the tannic acid. The seeds of mountain ash berries are poisonous if consumed in large quantities, and are best after they have been exposed to a light frost.

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Rose Hips And Mountain Ash Berries (cont'd)

Perhaps you would like to try one of the following recipes, submitted by Ms. Raynard.

Rose-Hip and Rhubarb Jam

1 cup rose hips
4 cups diced rhubarb
1 cup water
2 cups sugar

Cut rose hips in half and remove seeds with knife point. Add rhubarb and water and boil uncovered for 10 minutes.

Add sugar and continue to cook uncovered to jam stage (7 to 10 minutes).

Mountain Ash Berries and Crabapple Jelly

Wash mountain ash berries; wash, stem and quarter an equal amount of crabapples. Add water to barely cover. Bring to the boil and cook covered for about 20 minutes until the fruit is soft and pulpy. Pour into a moistened jelly bag and allow to drip for several hours.

Measure the juice and add an equal quantity of sugar. Heat and stir until dissolved. Boil rapidly uncovered for 7 to 10 minutes or until the liquid jells when dripped on to a cold saucer. Pour into hot sterilized jars. Seal.

- 30 -

September 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POTPOURRIS

by Elinor Burwash
Former District Home Economist at Evansburg

Potpourri is a mixture of dried flowers, spices, herbs and essential oils — essences that impart the characteristic fragrance of a plant — used to subtly scent a room. Dried flower blossoms, herbs and spices chosen for their scent and muted colors are the dominant ingredients; essential oils extracted from seeds, mosses and roots are added for balance. There are many materials to choose from and a potpourri can be as individual as you like. As it ages, a potpourri will change scent, and become even more subtle.

The container for your potpourri can be the traditional clear apothecary jar or a contemporary container. Avoid plastic if your potpourri contains essential oils because they will cloud or discolor it. If the potpourri contains ingredients chosen for their color or shape, a transparent container is important. An old-fashioned way to use a potpourri is to pack it in a covered jar that you open for half an hour or so each day to release the scent. If you like the idea of a clean fresh scent all the time, put the potpourri in an open dish or basket. The scent fades more quickly when it is uncovered. You can refresh it with a few drops of essential oil or brandy. An open mixture will probably last a season while a covered one can last for several years. Crushing some of the larger petals or leaves also releases new fragrance from an exhausted potpourri. A small amount of potpourri, crumbled almost to a powder can be put in little fabric bags and placed in lingerie drawers and linen closets as sachets.

Ingredients

Flowers — Flowers than retain their colors when dried. These include cornflowers, marigolds, blue delphiniums and purple violets. The petals of roses and lavender retain their scent after drying.

Herbs — mint, sage, basil, oregano, marjoram, lemon, thyme, balm or geranium

Spices — whole cloves, broken cinnamon sticks, freshly ground nutmeg or cardamon, star anise, dried crushed citrus peel

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Potpourris (cont'd)

Harvesting

Herbs should be harvested when their aromatic oils are at this most powerful. Pick flowers when they are just open and in the morning after the dew has dried. Pick only enough to lightly cover your drying shelves. Leave the leaves on the stems, but separate the flower petals if you wish. Handle all plant material gently to avoid bruising. As you pick herbs or flowers, lay them one deep on a tray or flat box.

Drying Herbs and Flowers

Herbs should be dried quickly with a low even heat. A dark warm place with air circulation (e.g. your oven) is needed. The heat level should be between 21° C and 38° C. Place the herbs on a frame that air will pass through (an open weave cloth can be stretched over a wooden frame). The drying space should only smell faintly of herbs. A strong smell means the heat is too high. The leaves are dry when they are brittle, but will not shatter. A microwave oven is an excellent place to dry herbs.

Flowers can be dried in two ways. Cut the stems short, tie the flowers together in bunches and hang them upside down in a cool, dark, dry place or spread a single layer of petals on a wire screen (window screen) placed on a TV table. When dry, the flower petals should be crisp. Add fresh material only when the original material is completely dry. Store all dried materials in airtight containers (glass jars) in a cool, dark place until you are ready to mix your potpourri.

Mixing the Potpourri

No two potpourris will be exactly the same. Choose a main scent, such as that given off by rose petals and use a fixative such as orrisroot. It is needed to hold the perfume longer than the flowers and leaves can do it on their own. Add drops of essential oils such as rose oil if desired. Essential oils can be obtained from health food stores.

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Potpourris (cont'd)

Recipe

1 cup fragrant rose petals
2 cups other flower petals for bulk
2 tbsps. orrisroot
½ tbsp. each of nutmeg, cinnamon and crushed lemon peel

Put some of the rose petals in a glass jar, add some bulk petals and sprinkle with orrisroot. Continue layering until all the petals and orrisroot are used. Add spices and lemon peel and stir gently.

Cover the jar tightly and keep in a dark dry place for a month. Turn and shake the jar occasionally.

Contact Patti Gillivray, District Home Economist, Thorhild, Alberta, TOA 3JO (Telephone: 398-3993) for more information on potpourris.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

September 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Seven Alberta Firms Receive Nutritive Processing Assistance 1

The Use Of Growth Implants On Young Cattle. 3

IBR In Feedlot Cattle 5

Avoid Planting Sensitive Crops 8

Rat Sightings! 9

Check Grain That Was Stored While Warm 10

Reducing Blackspot In Potatoes 12

4-H Dairy Show And Judging Contest Results. 13

Clothing For The Disabled 14

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

September 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEVEN ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE

Seven Alberta firms, expected to invest more than a million dollars in new, expanded or modernized nutritive processing facilities, are to receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

MO-NA Enterprises of Edmonton will receive $26,400 to expand its mobile operation that was started last year to dehydrate wild mushrooms. The expansion will involve mobile equipment and trailers that are used for the on-site preparation and dehydration of mushrooms picked in Alberta's forests. The estimated cost of the expanded operation is $132,000 and 58 part-time jobs are expected to be created during the mushroom growing season, which starts at the beginning of May and finishes at the end of October.

Champion Feed Services of Edmonton will receive $24,120 to modernize and expand its feedmill at Barrhead. The expansion will cost an estimated $120,600 and will increase the mill's capacity to produce pelleted and mash feeds for cattle, hogs and poultry by about 20 per cent to 18,000 tonnes per year. The expansion will include a new dust collector system.

Quality Feeds (Alberta) Ltd. will receive $10,200 to erect three bins, which will hold approximately 50 tonnes of feed and to install dust reduction equipment at its feedmill in Lacombe. The estimated capital cost of the project is $51,000.

V & B Feeds Ltd. of Vauxhall will receive $21,910 to expand and modernize its 11-year old feedmill. A second steam roller will be installed and its storage space for both raw and finished products will be increased for an estimated cost of $121,720. Two new jobs are expected to be created.

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Seven Alberta Firms Receive Nutritive Processing Assistance (cont'd)

Falher Alfalfa Ltd. of Falher will receive $76,931 to modernize its alfalfa pelleting plant, which is owned by a group of more than 50 farmers from the Falher, Girouxville and Donnelly areas. The upgrading of this eight year-old plant will improve the quality of its product as well as increase its overall efficiency. The estimated cost of modernizing the facility is $427,394.

The Rimbey Co-op Association Ltd. of Rimbey will receive $23,499 to help it move its meat processing operation to a new shopping centre that it is currently building to house all its departments that are now located. in two separate buildings. The estimated cost of moving the meat processing operation is $138,232.

The Sedgewick Co-operative Association Ltd. of Sedgewick will receive $9,443 to construct a new electronically-controlled fertilizer facility that is estimated to cost $59,019. A conveyor system will move bulk fertilizer in selected amounts from storage bins to a blender that will turn out a product that is tailored to customer needs. The new facility will enable the co-op to sell the new blended product on a much larger scale than was previously possible.

Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is jointly administered and funded by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE USE OF GROWTH IMPLANTS ON YOUNG CATTLE

The use of growth implants to improve rate of gain and feed efficiency is now becoming popular for yearlings that are being grown out on pasture.

Since diethyl stilbestrol (DES) was removed from the market, there are only two products that can be used as growth stimulating implants. One is Synovex, which contains progestrone or testosterone with estradiol benzoate; and the other is Ralgro, which contains zeralanol. Zeralanol is derived from a mold found on corn.

While the use of Synovex is limited to animals that weigh more than 400 pounds Ralgro can be used on weaned and suckling calves as well as on growing beef cattle and feedlot steers and heifers.

Last summer the staff of Alberta Agriculture's sheep and beef cattle branch carried out a number of trials across the province with cattle producers to show the effects of using Synovex and Ralgro under Alberta conditions. Ross Gould, who was in charge of the project, reports that 1,477 beef cattle in 30 herds were involved, and that both Synovex and Ralgro were used on yearling steers and heifers on pasture. The suckling calves were implanted with Ralgro.

Yearling Results

The response to Synovex and Ralgro in yearling steers was 19.11 and 18.3 per cent respectively. In one trial where yearling heifers were implanted with Ralgro the response was 15.84 per cent.

"Expressed in another way, says Mr. Gould, "the average response to the implants represented an additional 30 to 40 pounds of gain over a 120-day pasture feeding period". He points out that since the cost of the implants and the labor involved would probably be less than $2 per head, the use of implants on pasture yearlings would represent a return of $11 to $15 or more for every dollar spent.

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The Use Of Growth Implants On Young Cattle (cont'd)

Calf Results

The response in the 25 trials in which Ralgro was used on suckling steer calves ranged from -3.1 per cent to +21.92 per cent. The average response was +4.46 per cent. Mr. Gould says "We were not able to show a statistical significance in the calf trials because there was such a wide range of responses, but there did seem to be a trend towards a gain response to the Ralgro implants." Reports on similar research carried out in Nebraska and Wyoming in the United States show responses ranging from 5.7 to 8.2 per cent in implanted calves. These results fall within the range of responses recorded in the Alberta trials.

"It is difficult", Mr. Gould says, "to account for the variability in response among suckling calves. Since the trials were carried out under a wide range of conditions, there may have been limitations like energy or mineral nutrition in some herds which prevented the calves from responding."

Mr. Gould also says that recent information suggests that implanting Ralgro in a site about an inch from the base of the ear improves the response by about 10 per cent. Hence, some of the variation in responses in the Alberta trials may have been caused by differences in the implant sites among the herds

Alberta Agriculture staff are continuing implant trials in a number of herds again this year in an attempt to find out why there is such a wide range in the way different animals react to implants. Mr. Gould believes the best we can say at present is that Ralgro implants appear to produce a response in most suckling calves but that a response cannot be guaranteed every time.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IBR IN FEEDLOT CATTLE

Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) occurs most often in large groups of cattle in a feedlot or on a dairy farm, and the respiratory form is the most common in feedlot calves. Its occurrence is highest during the fall and winter months when a large number of susceptible animals are mixed together and confined or otherwise subjected to a wide range of stressful situations.

Apparently, it is not uncommon for 20 to 30 per cent of animals to be affected during an outbreak in unvaccinated feedlot calves, and morbidity may occasionally reach 100 per cent in a very severe outbreak. Although the mortality rate associated with uncomplicated IBR is very low, secondary bacterial infection of the windpipe and the lungs is common and can be fatal. Death losses can go as high as 10 per cent, but they are usually not higher than one or 2 per cent.

IBR is extremely contagious, and its transmission is most common when susceptible animals are crowded together. The virus reaches its great concentration in the respiratory tract in infected animals, and a nasal discharge, coughed up droplets and saliva are the main sources of the infection. An outbreak of IBR in a feedlot is often preceded by the introduction of an infected animal or animals, and its spread to animals in adjacent pens may occur rapidly. Such an outbreak usually reaches its peak within two to three weeks and is over in four to six weeks.

However, some animals can maintain the virus in a quiescent state for a long time after infection without showing clinical signs. Studies have shown that in some cases the virus can persist for as long as 17 months, and perhaps longer. The shedding of the latent virus may be induced periodically by such stress situations as bad weather, transportation or treatment with corticosteroid drugs.

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IBR In Feedlot Cattle (cont'd)

Because it is not possible to completely break the cycle of this disease in a feedlot where new susceptible animals are continually being introduced, control depends upon the development of an immunity to the virus either as a result of natural exposure or vaccination.

Beef calves should be vaccinated two to three weeks before they are weaned as part of a pre-weaning, pre-conditioning program. If an intranasal vaccine is used, some protection will be apparent within 72 hours, but maximum protection does not usually occur until approximately three weeks later. A single vaccination will not prevent infection, but it will reduce the severity of the disease and make the animals easier to treat. If an intramuscular vaccine is used and the calves are to be left with the cows, the latter should have been previously vaccinated so that abortions do not occur as a result of virus shedding.

Feeder cattle should be vaccinated at least one, and preferably two to three weeks, before they enter a feedlot, especially if disease is known to be present in the lot. If vaccination prior to shipment is not possible, some veterinarians recommend vaccinating the cattle as soon as they arrive in the feedlot and holding them in an isolated pen for seven to 10 days while the immunity develops. Other veterinarians recommend giving them a week in which to rest and adjust to feedlot conditions. Recent studies carried out in Ontario apparently suggest that disease losses are highest when calves are vaccinated upon arrival and put directly into a feedlot without a period of adjustment. Some cattlemen prefer to use an intranasal vaccine for newly weaned calves because these vaccines do not set the calves back as much as an intramuscular vaccine.

Can IBR vaccines cause disease is a question that is often asked. It arises because of problems with respiratory IBR that have occurred in feedlot calves seven to 21 days after they have been vaccinated. It is generally felt by those involved in IBR research that the vaccines do not induce disease, and that the reason for respiratory diseases appearing up to three

IBR In Feedlot Cattle (cont'd)

weeks after vaccination is that the animals become infected when they enter the feedlot and before the vaccine virus can induce sufficient immunity. The improper storage and administration, particularly in the case of intranasal vaccines, is also thought to explain some apparent vaccine failures.

More information on this topic is contained in "The Story of IBR". It is published by the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, but can be obtained in Alberta from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

September 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVOID PLANTING SENSITIVE CROPS

If you farm in the Peace River region or in northeastern Alberta where the precipitation was below normal this season, and if you treated your crops last spring with Treflan or Avadex, you should be very careful not to plant crops that are sensitive to these herbicides on the same land next year.

This advice comes from Walter Yarish, supervisor of weed control and herbicides with Alberta Agriculture, who explains that a larger proportion than normal of Treflan or Avadex could be present in the soil next year because of the lack of moisture. "Moisture," he says, "is needed to breakdown both chemicals."

Crops that are sensitive to Treflan are oats, sugar beets, timothy, canary seed grass and creeping red fescue. Only oats are sensitive to Avadex.

The labels on these products state that sensitive crops should not be planted the following year on land that was treated with them because of the possibility of damage to the crop. Mr. Yarish says this precaution is doubly important following drought conditions.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

September 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAT SIGHTINGS!

Alberta Agriculture has been receiving hundreds of telephone calls from people across the province who claim to have seen a Norway rat!

According to Cliff Barrett, animal pest control specialist, the animals that have been reported as Norway rats have been muskrats. He says the main reason there are so many muskrats around this fall, and that they are being seen in such unusual places as on a city street, is that the hot dry weather in August either shrank or dried up the sloughs and ponds where they normally live. This situation has driven them to look for new "accommodation". The fact that muskrat numbers have been building up in Alberta over the past few years has also contributed to the mass migration.

To help people distinguish between a Norway rat and a muskrat, Mr. Barrett points out that the latter have a slow, shuffling gait and a somewhat humped back when moving. Their feet, which are fairly large, and their almost hairless tail are considerably darker than their body and the cross section of their tail is oval. Their coat is a rich brown on the back and has fairly long guard hairs over a heavy under fur. A muskrat can vary in size from about three-quarters of a pound to three and a half pounds in the case of a mature animal.

A Norway rat is rarely seen because it is a very shy and a very fast-moving animal. It does not have a humped back when it is moving, it has a poor quality coat and its feet and almost hairless, round tail are the same gray color as its body. Its feet are very slender and delicate.

- 30 -

September 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHECK GRAIN THAT WAS STORED WHILE WARM

Did you know that grain that tested "dry" and was put into a bin, especially a steel bin, on a hot day can heat?

Glen Werner, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Stettler, points out that even though grain tests "dry" it still contains some moisture (e.g. 14%) and that green weed seeds and tailings will add to this moisture. In the case of a steel bin, the outside of the bin cools down at night causing the air in that area to also cool and move to the bottom of the bin where it pushes the warm air in the centre of the bin up towards the top of the grain. Here it cools down and drops some of its moisture. The concentration of moisture near the top of the grain can cause hot spots to form and the grain to spoil.

It is for this reason that all grain bins should be checked periodically after they have been filled. If any hot spots are found, the grain should be augered into another bin to lower the temperature or it should be aerated.

Aeration involves moving about 1/10 of a cubic foot per minute of air per bushel of grain through the bin, and maintaining that airflow 24 hours a day for 150-200 hours. The aeration time can be reduced to between 75 and 100 hours if the airflow is increased to 1/5 of a cubic foot per minute.

When selecting a fan for aeration, Mr. Werner recommends taking into consideration the volume of grain to be dried and the pressure caused by the depth of the grain. He says most fan distributors have ratings that will help a farmer choose a fan on the basis of volume and pressure.

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Check Grain That Was Stored While Warm (cont'd)

As a general rule, a slow speed centrifugal fan is the best choice if a high volume of air and pressure is required. An axial fan with a large hub and numerous small blades is sufficient for a moderate volume and pressure.

Remember that "dry" grain stored at a temperature of 20° C or higher can be much more of a problem from the point of view of heating than grain with a higher moisture content stored at a cooler temperature.

- 30 -

September 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REDUCING BLACKSPOT IN POTATOES

Potato growers can reduce the incidence of blackspot in their potatoes by minimizing mechanical bruising during harvesting and binning and by minimizing pressure bruising while the potatoes are in storage. This can be done by maintaining a high level of humidity.

Dr. D.R. Lynch of Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge says internal blackspot is associated with bruising at harvest time and with pressure bruises during storage. It appears in the cortex tissue of the tubers as a blackish area. The black pigment develops in one to two days after a potato has been bruised, but it is not visible until the potato is peeled. This physiological disorder concerns both potato processors and consumers.

Excessive nitrogen fertilization and a deficiency of potassium predispose potatoes to bruising. Research carried out in the State of Washington, U.S.A., has demonstrated that tuber hydration can also be an important factor. The erratic nature of the problem in southern Alberta could possibly be related to soil moisture levels. If the soil is dry during harvesting, the potatoes become dehydrated and more susceptible to injury.

- 30 -

September 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H DAIRY SHOW AND JUDGING CONTEST RESULTS

Twenty-two of Alberta's 23 4-H dairy clubs participated in this year's provincial Dairy Show and Judging Contest, which was held in Red Deer.

The dairy show consisted of five classes: a calf class, a yearling class, a two year-old class, a herd class and showmanship class. Don McIntosh of Okotoks was the official confirmation judge and Dr. Gordon Atkins of Calgary was the official showmanship judge. He was assisted by Lynn Clark, who was last year's showmanship champion. The winner of the herd class was chosen on the basis of stall area cleanliness and the member's general conduct.

Each club was eligible to enter a three-member team in the judging contest, and the 17 teams that competed judged Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey and Guernsey cow class and a pedigree class. The Vegreville 4-H club was the overall team winner. Top individuals in the contest were Maxine Cameron from the Crossfield-Didsbury and Carstairs dairy club and Danny Grad from the Leduc dairy club. Adele Gafka of Vegreville placed third. She will join Maxine Cameron as a dairy judge at the International 4-H Judging Seminar in Regina, Saskatchewan, in November.

Westerner Exposition in Red Deer was the host and major sponsor of the show. Other sponsors included, Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Dairymen's Association, the Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey and Guernsey Associations and a number of private individuals and local businessmen.

- 30 -

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September 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLOTHING FOR THE DISABLED

Clothing for the disabled can be fashionable as well as functional, according to Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textile specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

When shopping for clothing for a disabled person, she recommends choosing a design that will be attractive and comfortable and that will allow the person independence from the point of view of dressing him or herself. It should also be safe.

Following are some features to consider when choosing clothing for specific physical limitations.

Wheelchair-bound — two piece outfits; short jackets; back wrapped garments; knit fabrics; kimona or raglan sleeves; gussets, knit inserts, action pleats or fullness in the back of the bodice; two-way jacket zipper and pockets.

Limited arm or finger movement — wrapped garments; knit fabrics; kimona and raglan sleeves; elastic waistbands; front closures, velcro closures, easy-to-use fasteners; large buttons; buttons attached with elastic thread; gussets, knit inserts, action pleats and fullness in the back of the bodice.

Leg brace and cast wearers — separates; zippers in the side or inseam of trousers or slacks; moderately full skirts; reinforcement at the contact area (iron-on patches or double fabric) and velcro fasteners.

Crutch users — long shirts; blouses or overblouses; gussets, knit inserts and action pleats; underarm reinforcement and pockets.

Anyone who would like more information on clothing for the disabled should contact his or her district home economist or Bertha Eggertson, Box 8070, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 4P2.

- 30 -

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AGRI-NEWS

OCT 22

September 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund 1
Alberta Agriculture Hosts Livestock Outlook Conference. 5
Waterfowl Crop Damage Compensation Program 6
Project Idea. 7
Royal Winter Agricultural Winter Fair Exhibits. 8
Future 4-H Changes. 10
Disease Control Calendar For Beef Cattle 11
Dairy Farm Workers Training Program 13
Fall Fertilization Of Forage. 14
New 4-H Clothing Program 15
Storing Fruit And Vegetables 16
District Home Economist Appointed To Stettler 18

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Have you heard about the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund?

Financed by a $100 million endowment from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, it is designed to encourage students, artists, scientists, professionals, athletes, recreational leaders and working people to continue their education.

Following is a list of the scholarships.

For High School Students

Alexander Rutherford Scholarships for High School Achievement

Named in honor of Alberta's first premier and minister of education, Alexander Rutherford, these scholarships will be awarded for achievement in grades 10, 11 and 12. Scholarships of up to $1,500 may be awarded for post-secondary study at universities, colleges or technical schools.

Application deadline: July 1.

For Post-Secondary Students

Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarships

These scholarships were named in honor of Louise McKinney, the first woman to be elected to the Alberta Legislature and one of the "famous five" who won the right for Canadian women to be recognized as 'persons'. The scholarships, valued at $3,000 and based on exceptional academic achievement, are awarded to students who are enrolled in Alberta universities, colleges, technical institutes, etc.

Applications should be made at the institution being attended.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund (cont'd)

For Students At Graduate Levels

Sir James Lougheed Awards of Distinction

Named in honor of Sir James Lougheed, a noted Alberta senator and parliamentarian, these awards are designed to recognize academic excellence and to provide for advanced study anywhere in the world. Awards of $10,000 at the master's and extended professional levels and $15,000 at the doctoral level will be made annually.

Application deadline: February 1.

Ralph Steinhauer Awards of Distinction

These awards which honor, Ralph Steinhauer, Alberta's lieutenant-governor from 1974 to 1979, provide recognition for exceptional academic achievement and are for study in Alberta. At the master's and extended professional levels, the awards are valued at $10,000, and at the doctoral level they are valued $15,000.

Application deadline: February 1.

For Career Development

Michael Luchkovich Scholarships for Career Development

These awards in honor of Michael Luchkovich, who was a teacher, parliamentarian and an historian who worked to further the cause of human rights in Canada and in Europe, will be made to persons who have demonstrated outstanding ability in their work. Tuition fees, the cost of books and supplies will be covered for short-term, full-time study for less than six months and for part-time study, (i.e. evening or home study courses). Residence costs may be included if applicable. The program or seminar, short-course, etc. does not have to be in Alberta.

Application deadlines are December 1, April 1 and August 1.

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Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund (cont'd)

Wilfrid R. "WOP" May Scholarships for Career Development

Named in honor of the legendary Canadian aviator and bush pilot, "Wop" May, these scholarships recognize the demonstration of excellence in their work by professionals, administrators and managers. Awards of $10,000 at the master's and extended professional levels and $15,000 at the doctoral level may be made each year.

Application deadline: February 1.

For Student Athletes

Jimmie Condon Athletic Scholarships

Named to honor 92 year-old Jimmie Condon, who has been a longtime supporter and promoter of amateur sports in Calgary, these scholarships are designed for student athletes at universities, colleges and technical institutes. University students who qualify will receive $1,000 cash, while those at colleges and institutes will receive $500. Qualifying athletes will be nominated by their institution or sports' association.

For Community Recreation Leaders

J. Percy Page Recreation Awards

Named in honor of J. Percy Page, who was coach of the world-famous women's basketball team, the Edmonton "Grads", these awards will provide outstanding amateur coaches, officials and other dedicated volunteers involved in recreational leadership with the means to further their training and skills anywhere in the world. Provision has also been made for well-known leaders in the field of recreation to come to Alberta to conduct workshops.

Application deadlines are January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

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Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund (cont'd)

For Excellence

Sir Fredrick Haultain Prize

Named in honor of Sir Fredrick Haultain, the man who led Alberta into Confederation, these awards will recognize accomplishment by an individual or a group in the fields of fine, applied or performing arts; social or physical sciences; or education or humanities. Prizes of $25,000 will be awarded in each of the three categories.

Nominations by two persons familiar with the work of the individual or group may be made before November 1.

For A Field Or Achievement That Deserves Recognition

Charles S. Noble Scholarships

These scholarships, in honor of Charles S. Noble, one of Alberta's greatest agricultural entrepreneurs and inventors, will be awarded in areas proposed by individuals, groups, community or professional associations and educational institutions. All proposals will be considered. There is no fixed deadline for applications.

Brochures and posters are available from Students Finance Board, Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, 10th Floor, Baker Centre, 10025 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1G6. (Telephone: 427-8640).

- 30 -

September 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE HOSTS LIVESTOCK OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Cattle and hog producers interested in what lies ahead for the livestock industry are invited to attend "Taking Stock", sponsored by Alberta Agriculture.

This outlook conference for livestock producers will be held Tuesday, October 20th at the Westin Hotel, Calgary (formerly the Calgary Inn).

Interest rates, the Feed Grains Outlook as well as the Canadian Cattle and Hog Outlook will be covered.

George Tidball, President of Keg Restaurants Ltd. Vancouver, will be the banquet speaker.

Registration for "Taking Stock" begins 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Monday, October 19th.

Further information is available by contacting the Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

(403) 427-2127

September 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATERFOWL CROP DAMAGE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Alberta Energy and Natural Resources' fish and wildlife division reminds farmers that some compensation is available under the Waterfowl Crop Damage Compensation Program for cereal crop damage that was caused by migratory waterfowl.

However, to be eligible for this compensation crops that have been damaged by waterfowl must not be threshed until after the damage has been inspected and the loss assessed. The compensation applies only to wheat, oats, barley, mixed grains, flax, rye and canola that are still standing, swathed or in the stook.

Those in charge of the program stress that notice of damage will not be accepted if it is received more than 15 days after harvesting in the general area is considered to have been completed for the year. In the event that harvesting in the general area cannot be completed this fall, all claims for compensation must be submitted prior to December 31, 1981. They can be obtained from any fish and wildlife district office.

The Waterfowl Crop Damage Compensation Program is administered through the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation. And further information on it can be obtained from your district agriculturist.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

September 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT IDEA

If you are a member of the farming community, which includes 4-H members, and you have an idea on how to make farm equipment safer, pick up an entry form for the Project IDEA Contest from your local farm dealer. That idea could win you $3,000!

Project IDEA (Implements Designed to End Accidents) is giving away $7,000 in cash prizes to entrants who offer the best ideas leading to the design of safer farm implements. It is open to farmers, farm family members, farm workers and 4-H members in Alberta and British Columbia.

Entries will be judged by a team of adjudicators comprised of mechanical engineers, farmers and representatives of Alberta Agriculture's Farm Safety Program, the Farm Equipment Dealers' Association and a number of other organizations. The adjudicators will be looking for originality, cost efficiency and the practicality of incorporating the ideas into farm implements.

Project IDEA is being co-sponsored by the Farm Safety Program and the Farm Equipment Dealers Association of Alberta and British Columbia.

The deadline for entering Project IDEA is November 30, 1981.

In Alberta, you can obtain additional information from Solomon Kyeremanteng, Farm Safety Program, Oxbridge Place, 9820-106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2J6 (Telephone: 427-8943) or from the Farm Equipment Dealers' Association of Alberta – British Columbia, Suite G, 3801-21 Street N.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6T5 (Telephone: 277-7581).

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROYAL WINTER AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR EXHIBITS

Are you planning to exhibit cereal, oil or forage seed or vegetables or potatoes at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, scheduled for November 12 to 21?

Murray McLelland, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of cereal crops, urges farmers in this province to accept the challenge that the Royal offers and to send exhibits. He points out that in addition to the prize money, the recognition achieved by those who prepare and exhibit their seed at the Royal each year is not only valuable for them but for all Albertans. Entries from Alberta have done exceptionally well in past years.

Once again, Alberta Agriculture will pay the cost of transporting exhibits to Toronto and will provide prize money in all pedigreed seed classes that is equal to that provided by the Royal. Alberta Agriculture also provides an honorarium of $100 for each first prize winner in the pedigreed classes, and an honorarium of $200 for each grand championship winner. The honorarium for reserve grand championship winners in the pedigreed classes is $150.

Exhibits may be selected from either the 1980 or the 1981 crop, and the entry fee per sample is $1, except in the case of pedigreed seed entries and 4-H entries, where there is no entry fee.

Sample sizes are 10 pounds for commercial cereal seed and three pounds for commercial forage, mustard and canola seed. The sample size for pedigreed cereal seed is three pounds, which must be taken from a 100-bushel or larger lot. The sample size for pedigreed forage seed is two pounds, which must be taken from a 500-pound or larger lot. Pedigreed seed exhibits must be drawn by plant products personnel.

Seed potato samples must contain 30 tubers that weigh approximately eight ounces each and the variety must be noted. A hay sample must contain not less than a 12-inch section

- (cont'd) -

Royal Winter Agricultural Winter Fair Exhibits (cont'd)

of a bale and sheaves must be not less than five inches and not more than seven inches in diameter in the centre.

Exhibits must be shipped in containers that are strong enough to ensure that the exhibit will reach its destination in good condition. Light cotton sacks are not strong enough alone. They should be placed in a cardboard box before shipping and the entry tag should be placed inside the container.

Entries close on October 10 and entry forms should be sent directly to the Royal. However, all exhbits can be sent to the field crops branch, Alberta Agriculture, Bag Service No.47, Lacombe, Alberta, TOC 1SO to take advantage of the free transportation to the Royal. Exhibits must reach Lacombe by November 2. Those who wish to send their exhibits directly to the Royal must have them arrive there by November 4.

Ask your district agriculturist now for a prize list and an entry form.

- 30 -

September 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUTURE 4-H CHANGES

Important changes in national and provincial 4-H programs are being planned for 1983 when the Canadian 4-H Council celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Jack Redden, newly elected president of the council, says the council hopes to present a position paper at that time which will outline plans for the next 10 to 15 years. During a recent tour of Western Canada he also said that future changes will require the assistance of provincial 4-H organizations, and that various 4-H sponsors will be involved in the plans as well as 4-H staff members.

According to Mr. Redden, the proposed changes that will be contained in the position paper will be discussed at the annual national 4-H meeting that will be held in Victoria, B.C. in May 1982. Ted Youck, 4-H supervisor, Irene Leavitt, home economics director, and volunteers representing the provincial 4-H council will represent Alberta at the meeting.

Among the issues that will be discussed will be the placement of the national 4-H council staff and the structure of the volunteer sector. At the present time volunteers are not recognized by the Canadian 4-H Council, and Mr. Redden says that a system that would allow volunteers to have a voice in 4-H must be developed.

The content of 4-H programs is another key issue that will be discussed next May. According to Mr. Redden, the council is continuing to add new programs without evaluating the older ones, some of which may have become obsolete.

He points out that the main function of the Canadian 4-H Council is to provide 4-H members and their leaders with new opportunities, and that this goal is achieved through the assistance of various sponsors who help with provincial programs as well as national and international exchange trips.

- 30 -

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September 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISEASE CONTROL CALENDAR FOR BEEF CATTLE

Do you have a copy of the "Disease Control Calendar for Beef Cattle"?

It tells you the common diseases that you should be on the look out for during the various months of the year. It also describes each disease listed and outlines recommended control measures. It tells you, for example, that you should vaccinate calves for blackleg, malignant edema, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and parainfluenza 3 in September.

Bovine respiratory disease or shipping fever is the most common disease problem in October. Other diseases listed under this month are pasteurella pneumonia, lumpjaw, cancer eye and atypical interstitial pneumonia.

The diseases described under November and December include brucellosis, vibriosis, footrot, grain overload, bloat and wooden tongue. Under January and February coccidiosis and urinary calculi or water belly are discussed.

The most common conditions and diseases in March and April are prolapsed vagina, calving problems, naval infection, calf scours, grass tetany, pneumonia, necrotic stomatitis, laryngitis and white muscle disease.

According to the calendar, May is the month when you should vaccinate for blackleg and castrate and dehorn calves. If breeding females require IBR, vibrio or BVD vaccinations, they should receive them at least 30 days before they are bred. This is also the month when bulls should be physically examined and the quality of their semen evaluated.

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Disease Control Calendar For Beef Cattle (cont'd)

The information given under June and July pertains exclusively to the breeding season and gives useful tips on obtaining the most effective results. For example, it tells you that the ratio of yearling bulls to cows should be 1:15; the ratio for two year-old bulls should be 1:20 and the ratio for mature bulls should be 1:25 or 30, depending upon the condition of the bull and the terrain. In August you should watch for pink eye and foot rot.

The calendar also contains a full page summary of vaccination procedures for the control of some of the more common infectious diseases found in Western Canadian beef herds.

You can obtain a copy of the "Disease Control Calendar for Beef Cattle" (Agdex 420/662-1) from your district agriculturist or from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

September 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY FARM WORKERS TRAINING PROGRAM

If you like animals, especially cows, you may be interested in the Dairy Farm Workers Training Program that will begin at Olds College on November 2, 1981.

Designed by the college's department of animal science and continuing education in co-operation with Alberta Agriculture and dairy producers , this 14-week program is the only one of its kind in the province. Since it meets all the needs of dairy producers, who requested it, there will be a high demand for graduates and financial renumeration will be good.

The program will be given in modular units which emphasize the responsibilities of milking operations and such related tasks as feeding, housing, the care of cows and calves, heat detection, the operation of milking and farm equipment and record keeping. Those who participate will get a good deal of practical experience on the college's dairy farm which has about 80 milking cows.

Applicants can have either an urban or a rural background, but they must be 18 years of age or older, they must have their grade 10 or the equivalent education and have a valid driver's license.

The program will be limited to 12 students and the cost will be $201.25.

More information on the Dairy Farm Workers Training Program can be obtained from the Continuing Education Department, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO. (Telephone: 556-8344).

- 30 -

September 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL FERTILIZATION OF FORAGE

Fall fertilization of seeded grass and alfalfa has advantages and disadvantages, according to Dr. A.J. Leyshon of the federal research station at Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

The main disadvantage of applying fertilizers in the fall is the losses that can occur during the winter, particularly in the case of nitrogen fertilizer. However, Dr. Leyshon says such losses can be greatly reduced if the fertilizer is applied as late as possible in the fall (after the grass has stopped growing).

Among the advantages of fall fertilization are that fertilizers are usually cheaper at that time of year and applying them in the fall saves storage costs. Also, the late fall is usually less busy than the spring, and ground conditions are often more favorable for machine travel than they are in the early spring. "Fall fertilization" says Dr. Leyshon, "will ensure that the nitrogen fertilizer is in the root zone of the plants when grass starts to grow, and the fall application of phosphorous to legumes like alfalfa may reduce the time needed for results to appear."

- 30 -

September 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW 4-H CLOTHING PROGRAM

Fashion Flair — Fall '81 is the theme of Alberta's new 4-H Clothing Program under which the Simplicity/Style Pattern company of Toronto has made 19 exciting fall and winter fashions available to the province's 4-H clothing clubs.

A wardrobe, consisting of garments in the latest colors and fabrics, has been produced to coincide with the 4-H clothing project series. These garments may be modelled by clothing club members in local fashion shows or used as samples for new fabrics and sewing techniques discussed in the project manuals.

Support materials, including a slide/tape presentation, have also been developed to teach basic techniques in modelling as well as how to produce a dynamic fashion show.

In January a new wardrobe of spring/summer fashions will be produced, just in time for all the clothing achievement days. Many of the achievement days have fashion shows in which the new garments will be exhibited.

Fashions are fun, and 4-H clothing members will find this to be true when they have their own exciting fashion show.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STORING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Problems encountered by people who store fruit and vegetables in their basements can be eliminated or at least reduced by the following procedures.

One is to use the outside air to cool stored fruit and vegetables as quickly as possible after they have been harvested and to maintain a suitable temperature. The outside air also helps to keep the storage room free of odors, which can be given off by one type of vegetables or fruit and picked up by another. If you have found odors a problem in past years, you may have to keep your produce in perforated polyethylene bags or to store such things as onions and potatoes in a separate location. If odors build up when you have to close the air vents in the cold weather, you can partly overcome the problem by occasionally opening the storage room door.

A high level of humidity is also very important if you want to maintain high quality produce. You can compensate for the humidity that you lose through ventilation by pouring water on the floor. It will need wetting more often in the fall, when more ventilation is required, than during winter. To facilitate air circulation under the produce and to keep your feet dry when you enter the storage room, it is a good idea to put a slatted duckwalk over the floor.

Beets, cabbage, carrots, celery, parsnips, rutabagas and potatoes all require cool, moist storage conditions. Since root crops lose moisture rapidly, and tend to shrink, you may wish to store them in polyethylene bags or in containers covered with polyethylene sheets. Cabbages should also be stored in perforated polyethylene bags after they have been trimmed to maintain their moisture and color. The use of black polyethylene bags and storing cabbages in the dark is recommended. Potatoes will be of a better quality if you store them at a temperature of 4.4° C - 10 °C.

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Storing Fruit And Vegetables (cont'd)

Green, pink and ripe tomatoes should be stored in a warm, dry area and placed in shallow trays, preferably one layer deep. Ripe tomatoes will keep for one to two weeks and green ones for two to six weeks. Green tomatoes should be kept at a temperature of 12.8° C or higher for satisfactory ripening, while ripe tomatoes can be stored at a temperature of just above freezing.

You should store pumpkins and winter squash on shelves in a heated basement, and you should place them so that they do not touch each other. However, before putting them into storage, you should cure them for about two weeks in a dry location at a temperature of from 26.5 ° C to 29.5° C. Onions also need to be cured for several weeks in a warm dry, well ventilated location before being put into storage. Let them dry until their skins rustle.

If you would like information on the best storage conditions for most of the commonly grown fruits and vegetables, you will find it in a federal publication entitled "Home Storage Room for Fruits and Vegetables" (Agdex 250/60). It also contains information on ventilating systems and mechanical refrigeration as well as instructions and a plan for making storage room in your basement. It can be obtained in Alberta from district agriculturists and from Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

September 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO STETTLER

The head of Alberta Agriculture's district home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Kathleen (Kay) Dean to the position of district home economist at Stettler.

Ms. Dean was born and raised in Nova Scotia and grew up on a mixed farm. She obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) in 1967 from Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., where she majored in clothing and textiles. The following year she attended Dalhousie University in Halifax, N.S. and graduated with a B.Ed., having majored in secondary education.

Ms. Dean taught home economics in Dartmouth, N.S. from 1968 to 1973 when she worked in a fabrics shop for a year. From 1974 and until 1979, when she came to Alberta and joined Alberta Agriculture, she worked as a home economist with Nova Scotia Agriculture. From 1979 until her present appointment she has been district home economist at Coronation.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

AGRI-NEWS

September 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Preconditioned Calf Numbers Greatly Increased 1

Frost Injury Research Findings 3

Plebiscite On Plan To Establish An Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board 5

Winter Feeding Calves 6

Farm Safety Poster Contest Winners 8

Alberta Horse Industry Export Seminar 10

Fall Problem Bugs 11

Seasonal Needle Yellowing Of Evergreens 12

Working As A Volunteer 13

Plant Pathologist Appointed 15

District Home Economist Appointments 16

Two District Agriculturists-In-Training Announced 18

Alberta
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COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRECONDITIONED CALF NUMBERS GREATLY INCREASED

Substantially more preconditioned calves will be offered at Alberta's fall sales this year than was the case last year.

The head of Alberta Agriculture's preventive medicine branch, Dr. Terry Church, reports that more than 6,000 preconditioned and preimmunized calves are expected to be offered for sale this year compared with about 1,400 last year.

Under the Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder (ACPF) Program calves may be sold as either preconditioned or preimmunized. According to Dr. Church, preconditioned calves have been dehorned, castrated, vaccinated for blackleg-malignant edema and IBR $P1_3$ (rednose), they have also been treated for warbles and they were weaned at least 30 days prior to the sale. Preimmunized calves, he says, have had all the above treatments, but they were not weaned prior to the sale.

Calves in both the above categories are clearly identified with plastic ear tags. Those that have been preconditioned are marked with a green tag, while that have been pre-immunized are marked with a white tag. Dr. Church points out that all calves that are sold as preconditioned or preimmunized must be accompanied by a certificate from a veterinarian.

Following is a list of sales at which preconditioned and preimmunized calves will be sold during the remainder of this year.

Fort Macleod Auction Market Fort Macleod (Telephone:553-3315)	— October 23
Vold, Jones & Vold Auction Market Ponoka (Telephone: 783-3177)	— November 7
Fort Macleod Auction Market Fort Macleod (Telephone: 553-3315)	— November 19
Cole's Auction Rocky Mountain House (Telephone: 845-2100)	— December 4

- (cont'd) -

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Preconditioned Calf Numbers Greatly Increased (cont'd)

Vold, Jones & Vold Auction Market Ponoka (Telephone: 783-3177)	— December 5
Grande Prairie Auction Market Grande Prairie (Telephone: 532-3949)	— December 7

Cow-calf producers who would like information on enrolling their calves in the ACPF Program should contact the operator of one of the above markets or their local veterinarian or district agriculturist. Potential buyers who would like more information about calves that have been preconditioned or preimmunized should also contact the operator of one of the above markets.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROST INJURY RESEARCH FINDINGS

Why are some cereal crops more resistant to frost damage than others? This question was tackled by Dr. Susan Hirano, a consultant researcher at the University of Wisconsin in the United States, during a recent visit with Alberta Agriculture's plant industry division staff.

Experiments carried out by Dr. Hirano and her colleagues have shown that leaf surfaces bacteria can play a major role in the predisposition of plants to frost injury. Most, if not all plants support a bacterial population on the surface of their leaves, and these bacteria vary in number and species. Some species, referred to as ice-nucleation active (INA) bacteria, have the ability to initiate the formation of ice crystals, and the leaf surfaces of plants that have a high population of INA bacteria (millions per gram of leaf tissue) may freeze when the air temperature drops to -2 ° C. On the other hand, plants that are free of these bacteria or that have only a few may not freeze when the temperature drops to -5° C or even lower. This means that the cooling of the water in the leaf tissue to below freezing (supercooling) will not damage the leaf. It is only when ice crystals form that instant disruption of the leaf cells occurs and the tissue dies.

Dr. Hirano demonstrated this principle with supercooled water under experimental conditions for Alberta Agriculture staff. She took the flag leaves and heads of barley samples in the milk to soft dough stage and subjected them to a temperature of -2 ° C to -2.5° C and they froze. She then took barley and wheat leaves from late-planted plots where the seed had been treated with a non-nucleating competitor bacteria and subjected them to freezing temperatures. In this case they showed a great deal of resistance to freezing down to a temperature of -5 °C, and the wheat heads in the milk to soft dough stage had more tolerance to freezing than the barley. Actual freezing of the wheat heads took place at -3.5° C to -4 ° C. In this instance a light frost in August would probably have caused some damage to the wheat crop and have caused considerable damage to the barley crop.

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Frost Injury Research Findings (cont'd)

How will research findings help to prevent crop injury from late spring and early fall frosts? Research to date has shown that treating the seed with non-nucleating competitive bacteria will help to prevent crop damage in the early part of the season and could possibly encourage resistance to light frosts in August and September. Several spray treatments, using urea and antibiotics have also been found to increase resistance to frost injury by removing or inhibiting the activity of INA bacteria. Another field of research might be to make use of frost resistance in some of our present crop varieties or to try to breed varieties that discourage leaf and head colonization by INA bacteria.

Further information can be obtained from Dr. Ieuan Evans or Conrad Gietz, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Agriculture Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

September 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLEBISCITE ON PLAN TO ESTABLISH AN ALBERTA HATCHING EGG MARKETING BOARD

In response to a request from the Alberta Hatching Egg Producers' Association, the Alberta Products Marketing Council has commenced a plebiscite on the establishment of an Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board.

In order to receive a ballot to vote on the plebicite, all eligible hatching egg producers in the province must register with the marketing council before 12:00 noon on October 19, 1981. An eligible producer is a person who produces hatching eggs and who placed female broiler breeder chicks for the purpose of producing hatching eggs during the period January 1, 1980 to March 12, 1981. Any eligible producer who does not receive a registration form in the mail should contact the marketing council office prior to the October 19th deadline.

Questions regarding the proposed Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board or the conduct of the plebiscite should be directed to the directors of the Alberta Hatching Egg Producers' Association or to the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone:427-2164).

- 30 -

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September 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER FEEDING CALVES

Before you choose a winter feeding program for your calves, you should decide what performance you hope to get from them, the level of weight gain you want, which feeding program is likely to be the most profitable, and how interest rates will affect your profits. You should also know how much feed you have on hand and the quality of that feed.

In the past cattlemen have used feeding programs for calves that are designed to enable them to gain weight at a rate of 0.5 to 0.8 kg per day. Such a program is still appropriate for calves going back on grass the following summer and for those which must be grown out before going on full feed.

Some cattlemen are now aiming for a daily gain of 0.9 to one kg. Large growthy calves, especially cross-bred animals from the European breeds, can gain weight rapidly and still reach an acceptable slaughter weight and grade A1 or A2. Anyone who is feeding calves as bulls from the British breeds as bulls should aim for a higher rate of gain.

However, a feeding program that will produce rapid gains should only be used if the calves are going to remain in the feedlot until they go to slaughter. If they are going to be marketed as feeder cattle, a program that will produce moderate gains should be considered because most buyers discount fleshy cattle.

Compensatory gains on grass are higher for calves fed to gain 0.5 kg during the winter than they are with higher winter gains. Hence, calves that will be going on to grass in the spring should be fed to gain only a modest amount of weight.

When deciding on your feeding program keep in mind that feed costs per kg of gain generally decrease as the rate of gain increases. If you are operating on borrowed money, remember the cost of borrowing the money is constant regardless of whether the calves gain

- (cont'd) -

Winter Feeding Calves (cont'd)

0, 0.5 or one kg per day and that it represents a substantial additional expense. You should also estimate your likely selling price when setting up your feeding program.

You would probably find it helpful to discuss the market situation with your local district agriculturist, livestock market analyst or a representative of agribusiness and to get a copy of the publication entitled "Winter Feeding Programs for Beef Cattle and Calves". Published by Alberta Agriculture, it contains sample rations for calves being fed to gain at various rates and sample rations for wintering beef cows. "Winter Feeding Programs for Beef Cattle and Calves" (Agdex 420/50-1) can be obtained from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

September 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

The staff of the Alberta Farm Safety Program are pleased to announce the winners of the 1981 Farm Safety Poster Contest for school children in grades 1 to 4.

Conrad Janzen, a grade 2 student from the Buffalo Head Prairie School was a first prize winner and the overall winner of the contest, which attracted 2,043 final entries. His picture, which illustrates the importance of wearing safety equipment when handling chemicals, will be used for a promotional poster for the Alberta Farm Safety Program.

The other first prize winners, one from each grade, were Deanna Knowles, a grade 1 student from the Byemoor Elementary School; Sherry Pfannmuller, a grade 3 student from the Mayerthorpe Elementary School; and Barbara Haring, a grade 4 student from the Sedgewick School.

In the grade 1 category Carol Cockwill from the Arrowwood School took second prize; David Fortin from the Three Hills School too third prize; and Dale Winter from the Delia School took fourth prize.

In the grade 2 category Tara Flaterud from the Dorothy Oakley School in Vermilion took second prize; Lisa Makelki from the St. Patrick School in Taber took third prize; and Teresa Stahl from the Valleyview Colony School in Torrington took fourth prize.

In the grade 3 category Dennis Champagne from the Canmore Elementary School took second prize; and Doug Dammann from the Alliance School took third prize.

In the Grade 4 category Natasha Affolder of the Sedgewick School took second prize; Cindy Kuchnerek of the Vermilion Elementary School took third prize; and Roseanne Kohn, also of the Vermilion Elementary School, took fourth prize.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

Farm Safety Poster Contest Winners (cont'd)

Sally Allen, a grade 2 student from the Dr. Hamman School in Taber and Stacy Gates, a grade 3 student from the St. Augustine School in Ponoka, both received honorable mention.

The Farm Safety Poster Contest is designed to promote safety awareness among rural students in grades 1 to 4 in the hope that they will then be able to recognize farm hazards more clearly. Participants are asked to draw and color a picture of an unsafe situation on a farm and to forward it to the Alberta Farm Safety Program where the staff choose the overall winning picture and 17 others which will be published in the newest edition of the coloring book, "Colour Me Safe". This book and the promotional poster will be distributed to rural schools in Alberta, and a limited number of both will be made available to Alberta Agriculture's extension offices.

Further information on the poster contest and "Colour Me Safe" can be obtained from the Alberta Farm Safety Program, 5th Floor, Donsdale Place, Edmonton, T5J 3N3 (Telephone: 427-8943) or from Alberta Agriculture, 9th Floor, Agriculture Building, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-2186).

- 30 -

September 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HORSE INDUSTRY EXPORT SEMINAR

Members of Alberta's horse industry who are seriously interested in the export market for horses, either now or in the future, are invited to attend the Alberta Horse Industry Export Seminar, scheduled to take place at the North Hill Inn in Red Deer on October 7.

Sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's international marketing sector, the seminar has been designed to provide information on the export potential for Alberta-bred horses and on export requirements. It follows the recent entry of Alberta horses into the European market via Equitana in West Germany, which is Europe's most prestigious horse show and sale.

Following is an outline of the agenda:

The need for and the advantages of exporting horses; the export potential in select markets; the export process; health regulations and certification; taxes, duties, import permits and clearing; transportation; financing a sale; and aids to sales.

Wolf Kroeber, owner and manager of Equitana, will be attending the seminar, which is free and will commence at 10 a.m. sharp on October 7.

Further information on the Alberta Horse Industry Export Seminar can be obtained from Doug Hill, International Marketing Sector, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-4241).

- 30 -

September 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL PROBLEM BUGS

Boxelder or maple bugs are a perennial problem in some areas of Alberta each fall.

These large red and black bugs fly to a warm surface like a south-facing wall of a house, often in such numbers that the wall will seem to be "walking away". Chemical control frequently seems futile because for every 1,000 bugs that are killed, 2,000 replace them from the nearby trees. However, according to Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Agricultural Research Center in Brooks, these bugs will soon disappear, usually after a hard frost. In the meantime, he recommends such sanitary measures as cleaning up old woodpiles garbage, etc. near the walls of the house and cleaning up unused areas in the house. He also recommends making the house as bug-proof as possible by repairing broken windows, cracks, etc. and the use of a good vacuum cleaner.

Similar invasions of strawberry root weevils also occur in some areas each year. These dark brown to black, medium-sized beetles are harmless. They can neither fly nor bite, but they are very persistent. Many a horrified housewife has found them in her spotlessly clean kitchen with no idea of where they came from. Once again, sanitation and a good vacuum cleaner is the best line of defence, says Dr. Soehngen.

He also says that the application of chlordane, used as directed on the label, or malathion to the lawn around the foundation of the house and to the foundation itself will give good protection because these insects, unlike boxelder or maple bugs, have to cross the treated area on foot.

Further information on controlling the boxelder bug is contained in a factsheet entitled "Control of the Boxelder Bug" (Agdex 627-1). It can be obtained from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

Alberta
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September 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEASONAL NEEDLE YELLOWING OF EVERGREENS

Many homeowners will notice yellow foliage on some of their evergreens, especially pines and cedars during September and October.

Since the color change is often dramatic, it is natural to suspect a disease or that insects are attacking the trees. While disease and insect attacks do cause foliage yellowing, needle discoloration in the fall is usually caused by a phenomenon called "autumn shed".

Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, explains that the leaf or needle drop that occurs in evergreens throughout the year often goes unnoticed because it is concealed by new growth on the inside of the tree. However, when many needles lose their color simultaneously in the fall, as is the case with most species of spruce and pine and certain types of cedars and junipers, the phenomenon becomes noticeable. Dr. Howard says Scots, lodgepole and Austrian pines retain their needles for three to four years and that fir keep theirs for even longer. Pines occasional drop a few of their three year-old needles in late spring or early summer.

Dr. Howard points out that anything that decreases the vigor of an evergreen tree or places it under stress will bring about premature shedding. Examples of such situations include wet or poorly drained soil, drought, transplant shock, poor fertility, spider mites, soil salinity, winter injury and herbicide damage.

If the appropriate remedial measures are taken, normal growth is usually resumed, but trees which have lost foliage may look deformed and scraggy for a number of years. Dr. Howard advises anyone who is not sure whether the yellowing is seasonal or being caused by a disease or insects to contact a tree specialist.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORKING AS A VOLUNTEER

by Norma J. Kirkby
District Home Economist, Drumheller

With fall here, community organizations are gearing up for the activities they wish to sponsor and they are soliciting their membership for workers.

But, you say, "This business of saying I'll help never seems to work out. When I say I'll help, I figure I'm giving a couple hours, but I often end up putting in days of labor. It is not that I begrudge my time, but the problem arises because the task I was asked to do was not very fairly represented to me. I wish people would be honest, and if it is a big job that they need assistance with, say so. Then at least, I'd know how much I have to do."

How can the problem of being an effective volunteer be solved? I would like to propose a few principles for both the volunteer seeker and the person who volunteers their services. They should smooth out some of those rather edgy situations!

First some words for the volunteer seeker. When you want assistance, begin by deciding on the specific tasks for which you require help. If it is in the area of transporting of children to out-of-town sports events, specify that, rather than just saying transportation, which might mean only helping to get players to a local practice. Decide when you need the help, and if the task is repetitive, state the frequency. When the task(s) is (are) well defined, then look at the populace you wish to draw on. Don't be tempted to choose person A because he or she always helps even though that may be the easy way to get your help. If you do, you will probably reduce that person's effectiveness in all the tasks he or she does, including your own! Think about each prospective helper's unique abilities. Then ask on the basis of these abilities. In that way you won't come to a job that requires creative ability, with your only remaining name being someone who is all thumbs! Above all, be honest! Don't try to hood-

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Working As A Volunteer (cont'd)

wink people by minimizing the job or by magnifying its importance. A willing worker who discovers that he or she is operating under a false pretense becomes your worst enemy! That helper may casually say that the task he or she is doing is not what was described, and that is a red flag to all others. Your credibility as a help seeker will decline, and the responsiveness of those around you will also decline.

Now a word to the volunteer: Never accept a task you cannot realistically complete. Don't strive to be the good fellow or gal by saying yes, even when you know you shouldn't; it only makes people leery of your level of responsibility. Although an "on-the-ball" volunteer seeker should give you a complete description of the task, don't be afraid to ask the questions "who", "what", "when", "where" and "why"! In that way you'll be able to see the task in perspective. Knowing when a task will be concluded usually helps a person to decide whether he or she can meet the demands. Another characteristic of a good volunteer is accountability. When you can't do your part, for a valid reason, let the one in charge know, and if possible arrange for a replacement. Doing the latter will endear you greatly! Lastly, one of the greatest attributes of a volunteer is a judicious tongue. Speak in turn and knowledgeably! Then, your words will be heeded and not regarded as so much tripe!

Remember, being a volunteer seeker or a volunteer is a skilled task. Approach either with a sense of commitment and expect results!

- 30 -

September 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT PATHOLOGIST APPOINTED

Dr. Bart Bolwyn, head of plant sciences at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, has announced the appointment of Dr. Prem Kharbanda to the position of plant pathologist.

Dr. Kharbanda will be conducting research into the biology and control of economically important plant diseases in Alberta and co-operate in the diagnostic and extension services that are offered by the plant pathology section.

He obtained a B.Sc. (Hons.) in agriculture and animal husbandry, an M.Sc. in plant pathology in India and a Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Illinois at Urbana. Following graduation he continued his research into various aspects of plant pathology, and he now has 10 years of experience with the University of Manitoba and Alberta Agriculture. During this period he worked on diseases in legume crops and greenhouse vegetables and ornamental crops, with special emphasis on the cause, spread, and control of seed and soil-borne diseases as well as resistance to fungicides. He has publshed about 40 research, extension and review articles and contributed regularly during the last two years to the Alberta Greenhouse Newsletter.

His most recent employment was at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks where he was involved in research and extension activities related to disease control in greenhouse crops.

Dr. Kharbanda is a member of the Agricultural Institute of Alberta.

- 30 -

Alberta
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September 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTMENTS

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the following district home economist and district home economist in-training appointments.

Jocelyn McKinnon

Ms. McKinnon has been appointed district home economist at Provost. She comes from Manitoba where she was an active member of 4-H for six years. She obtained her degree in home economics from the University of Manitoba in 1975 and her certificate in education from the same university in 1977. She taught home economics from 1975-76 and from 1977 to 1981. Since 1979 she has served on a home economics curriculum review committee for junior high schools for the Manitoba Department of Education.

Karen Hoover

Ms. Hoover has been appointed district home economist at Westlock, after having served as district home economist at Manning for four years. She was raised on a mixed farm north of Delia and obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta in 1977.

Suzanne Peters

Ms. Peters has been appointed district home economist in-training at Camrose. She was born in Quebec City and has lived in Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Island, Ottawa and Montreal. She obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta in 1980, having specialized in family studies. Her previous jobs include switchboard operator, receptionist and an adult class co-leader for the Family Life Education Council.

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District Home Economist Appointments (cont'd)

Elisabeth (Lisa) Clark

Ms. Clark has been appointed district home economist in-training at Vegreville. She comes from British Columbia and obtained her B.H.E. (home economics) from the University of British Columbia this year. She has worked with the Boundary Health Unit and the South Okanagan General Hospital in B.C.

Judy Shipley-Smith

Ms. Shipley-Smith has been appointed district home economist in-training at Drumheller. She was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, and grew up in Prince Albert. She obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Saskatchewan in 1980 and has worked for Food Talk in Prince Albert; Saskatchewan Power, as an assistant home services advisor; and for the Saskatchewan Beef Information Centre.

- 30 -

September 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS-IN-TRAINING ANNOUNCED

Alberta's Agriculture's extension division director, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointments of two district agriculturists-in-training. They are Gordon Bacon and Raelene Morrison.

Gordon Bacon

Mr. Bacon will be taking his training at the Wetaskiwin district office with senior district agriculturist Don Young.

Mr. Bacon was born in Ogema, Saskatchewan, where he worked on his family's grain and livestock farm. He received his bachelor's degree in agricultural science from the University of Saskatchewan in April of this year. During the past two summers, he was employed by Velsicol Corporation of Canada where he set out and evaluating test plots in each of the three Prairie provinces.

Raelene Morrison

Ms. Morrison has been appointed to the Lac La Biche district office, where she will receive training as a district agriculturist under the supervision of senior district agriculturist Harvey Yoder. Ms. Morrison was raised at High Level where she received first-hand farm experience on her parents' farm and she was a member of the local 4-H beef club. She completed her high school in Edmonton and obtained her B.Sc. (agriculture), with a major in animal science, from the University of Alberta last spring. She was awarded the Alberta Institute of Agrologists scholarship in her final year of University.

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

AGRI-NEWS

October 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

The Views Of A Green Certificate Graduate 1

Family Members As Wage Earners. 3

Agrivision Receives American Blue Ribbon Award 6

Meat Inspection Program Benefits Provincial Economy. 8

The Effects Of Different Management Systems On Cattle. 10

Fall Watering And Winter Survival Of Trees 11

Peace Region Farm Wives' Conference 12

Coming Agricultural Events. 13

Alberta

AGRICULTURE

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

October 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE VIEWS OF A GREEN CERTIFICATE GRADUATE

David Bentley, a fourth-year University of Alberta agricultural student and a recent graduate of the Alberta Green Certificate Farm Training Program, says that he had a better idea of what courses would benefit him most in the working world after having participated in the green certificate program, and that it helped him to decide on the direction he wants his career to take.

David Bentley doing routine chores.

David came to Canada in 1975 with his parents who had lived in a village in England. The family first settled in Ontario where David took his high school and then moved to Edmonton, Alberta. In 1977, after having taken a year off from studying, David enrolled in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Agriculture.

At the end of his second year, he decided to take another year off, this time to get some practical agricultural experience. He was looking for something that would give him a reasonably broad view of the agricultural industry when a friend, who was working as a summer assistant district agriculturist at Ponoka, told him about the Green Certificate Farm Training Program. After some investigation, David felt that this program seemed to provide the experience that he was looking for. In addition to practical farming experience, it offered insight into the areas of extension and agribusiness through contact he would have with extension personnel and agribusiness representatives.

The next step was to contact the farm training specialist for the Edmonton area. David was then screened from the point of view of suitability and given a list of farmers who

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The Views Of A Green Certificate Graduate (cont'd)

were prepared to take trainees under the Green Certificate Farm Training Program. At the same time David's name and the type of farming operation he was interested in were circulated to the regional farm training specialists in the province. He wanted to work on a farm which specialized in hogs, and, in his case, he was contacted by the farm training specialist at Vermilion where there was a hog farmer who was willing to take a trainee. David and the specialist visited the farmer, Steve Zarusky, who raised purebred Hampshires on his farm near Smoky Lake. After an amicable interview over a cup of coffee, David decided that he would like to work with Mr. Zarusky and Mr. Zarusky decided that he would like to have David.

The arrangement was mutually satisfying to both parties and David feels he learned a lot during the 14 months he spent with Mr. Zarusky that will be useful to him in the future. When asked whether he felt there was too much routine work during his training period, David replied that it was an inevitable part of farming, regardless of whether the farmer specialized in livestock or grain. He also pointed out that farming is never a nine to five job, and that participants in the Green Certificate Farm Training Program will get out of it exactly what they put into it. He emphasized that the onus is always on the trainee to get information he wants because the farmer is not a teacher in the conventional sense. "He is there," David says, "as the main source of information."

In spite of the benefits he obtained as a trainee, David does not think that the Green Certificate Farm Training Program is for everyone. "It is" he says, "just one of the ways that a person can obtain agricultural experience. In my opinion, it is geared more to people who want to make farming their career rather than to those who want to become a professional in the agricultural industry."

Anyone who would like information on the Green Certificate Farm Training Program should contact his or her regional farm training specialist or the Supervisor, Farm Training Section, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

October 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAMILY MEMBERS AS WAGE EARNERS

by Nancy Nicholson
Farm Business Management Branch, Olds

Did you know that by paying wages to members of your family, you can lower your tax bracket and increase your total family disposable income even though you may not be able to claim them as dependants? And at the same time you will be providing your spouse and/or children with some financial independence.

How much should they be paid? This depends on such things as how much each family member contributes to the business, which wage level would return the most after-tax income, the net farm income and the number and age of the family members receiving a salary. Because the optimum wage levels can vary, Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds has put together a computer program to enable a farmer to compare various income splitting alternatives.

Wages should reflect the individual's contribution to the farm and should not change significantly from year to year, unless his or her duties change accordingly. A good rule of thumb is that the family member should receive whatever you would pay someone else to do the same job.

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Family Members As Wage Earners (cont'd)

The following example illustrates how paying wages to family members can be beneficial. In this example the farmer has a wife and two children, aged eighteen and sixteen, and the net farm income is $30,000.

	I	II	III	IV	V
	No Wages	Wage to spouse	Wages to children	Wages to spouse and oldest child	Wages to spouse and both children
Farmer					
Net farm income	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000	$30,000
Salaries paid	-	10,000	9,500	15,500	19,500
Taxes, C.P.P.*, U.I.C.**	6,173	4,030	3,967	2,906	1,868
Disposable income A	23,827	15,970	16,533	11,594	8,632
Wife					
Wage	-	$10,000	-	$10,000	$10,000
Taxes, C.P.P., U.I.C.	-	1,191	-	1,191	1,191
Disposable income B	-	8,809	-	8,809	8,809
18-year old child					
Wage	-	-	5,500	5,500	5,500
Taxes, C.P.P., U.I.C.	-	-	175	175	175
Disposable income C	-	-	5,325	5,325	5,325
16-year old child					
Wage	-	-	4,000	-	4,000
Taxes, C.P.P., U.I.C.	-	-	72	-	72
Disposable income	-	-	3,928	-	3,928
Total family disposable income (A+B+C+D)	23,827	24,770	25,727	25,727	26,692
Increase in family disposable income over paying no wages	-	952	1,958	1,900	2,865

* C.P.P. — Canada Pension Plan
** U.I.C. — Unemployment Insurance Contribution

In this example, paying the wife ($10,000) and the children ($5,500 and $4,000) results in the least amount of taxes being paid and the greatest total family disposable income.

- (cont'd) -

Family Members As Wage Earners (cont'd)

The family saves $2,865 and is eligible to receive increased Canada Pension Plan and Unemployment Insurance Benefits.

A salary of $10,000 to the spouse results in an increase of $952 in family disposable income. On the other hand, paying just the children $9,500 results in an increase of $1,958 or over $1,000 more! Would it not be worthwhile to provide spending money to your children with pre-tax dollars?

If you would like assistance in determining the effects that various salary combinations would have on your tax situation, you should contact your regional farm economist. There is also a computer program on these calculations that is available from the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2,000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO, for farmers who have access to Visicalc computer software.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRIVISION RECEIVES AMERICAN BLUE RIBBON AWARD

The weekly agricultural show, Agrivision, that is co-produced by CFAC Lethbridge Television and Alberta Agriculture, has received an Extension Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Award for its agricultural engineering segment on the Agricultural Engineering Technology Program at Olds College. The award was made by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers at its 1981 annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, U.S.A.

The society presents the Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Award every year in recognition of "outstanding efforts and achievements in the development of noteworthy educational aids". Len Ring, irrigation systems engineer with Alberta Agriculture and one of the co-hosts of Agrivision, as well as one of the recipients of the award, says the Blue Ribbon Awards encourage agricultural engineers in industry and in the public service to strive for excellence through the interchange of ideas on successful methods and techniques that contribute to the overall improvement in extension methods. The other recepients of the award were CFAC's program producer, Rick Lewchuk and photographer and location director, Wayne Dwornik.

Entries in the competition are divided into two main categories, industry and public service, and include publications, models, displays, slides, filmstrips, extension methods, engineering plans and TV and motion picture films. All the entries that are judged to be outstanding in originality are given a Blue Ribbon Award. This year 89 entries received these awards, but of these only five were in the television and motion picture category. Also, of the 89 entries that received Blue Ribbon Awards, the agricultural engineering technology segment of Agrivision was the only Canadian entry to receive an award.

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Agrivision Receives American Blue Ribbon Award (cont'd)

CFAC Lethbridge Television and Alberta Agriculture have co-produced Agrivision since 1975 when it was called Irrigation Country and was hosted by the Taber irrigation specialist Wally Chinn. The name of the show was changed to Agrivision in 1976 when it expanded its role to include all areas of agriculture as opposed to just irrigation. Murray McLelland, district agriculturist at Lethbridge joined Mr. Chinn as co-host at that time and they continued to host the show until 1979. Since then Mr. Ring has co-hosted it with Don Wentz, district agriculturist at Lethbridge or Mike Clawson, also a district agriculturist at Lethbridge. Mr. Ring and Mr. Wentz will be the hosts during the coming season.

The show, which continues to be a good source of agricultural information and provides an opportunity for Alberta Agriculture staff and others to impart this information, is now widely viewed throughout southern Alberta, southeastern British Columbia and northern Montana. It is aired each Tuesday evening at 10.30 p.m. on CFAC and is sponsored by Imperial Oil, Bill's Electric of Coaldale, Milliken Farm Supplies of Taber and Lethbridge Datsun.

Those responsible for the production of Agrivision would like people to suggest topics for upcoming shows and even to appear on a show. If you have an idea for the show, you are invited to contact CFAC Lethbridge Television or Len Ring or Don Wentz, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Center, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4C7.

- 30 -

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October 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM BENEFITS PROVINCIAL ECONOMY

Alberta's Meat Inspection Program, initiated by the provincial government towards the end of 1972, has been credited with saving a segment of the meat industry from a rapidly dwindling position and with setting the stage for a six-fold increase in slaughter volume over an eight-year period.

This is the conclusion reached by a cost-benefit study carried out by Alberta Agriculture's meat inspection branch. Those who conducted the study also say that the meat inspection program has ensured a safe and wholesome meat supply for rural areas of the province, and that it has pumped millions of dollars into the Alberta economy. In fact, the taxes alone that have been generated by this industry pay the cost of the program many times over.

According to economists, each dollar generated in a community has a spin-off effect of $4. Hence, it may be fair to say that the Alberta Meat Inspection Program is responsible for a total of almost $50 million worth of economic activity in rural areas.

Since the program was implemented small plant slaughter of beef has increased to 54,000 head (600%), the slaughter of hogs has increased to 77,000 head (750%) and the slaughter of poultry has increased to 1.5 million birds from a negligible level.

During the same period, the number of red meat abattoirs has decreased to 68 from 92, but the capacity and quality of the remaining plants has increased dramatically. On the other hand, the number of poultry plants has increased to 83 of which 73 are operated by Hutterites. Alberta also now has one rabbit plant. The number of people employed by the plants has increased to more than 500 from 215.

- (cont'd) -

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Meat Inspection Program Benefits Provincial Economy (cont'd)

Direct financial benefits to the province's rural economy fall into the following three major areas:

Jobs created in industry 275	$ 3,600,000
Salaries paid to inspectors	$ 836,000
New construction 64 million ÷ 8 years	$ 8,000,000
Total Impact Per Year	$12,436,000

In addition to the above, the Hutterites have spent about $4,000,000 on new construction.

Financing of new plants by the Agricultural Development Corporation, the Alberta Opportunity Company and through nutritive processing agreements contributed significantly to the necessary construction capital.

There is a potential for 12 new plants at a capital expenditure in excess of $4 million to be built this year, and some are already underway.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ON CATTLE

Researchers at the federal research station at Melfort, Saskatchewan, have begun a study to examine the effects that different winter housing and feeding and breeding systems have on cattle in a northern environment.

In the area of housing, they are comparing minimal shelter (slotted fences and bedded mounds) with moderate shelter (pole barns, calving barns with an outside paddock). The feeding systems they used were straw fed free-choice with either brome-alfalfa hay or silage and a limited amount of grain just before the cows calve and during the nursing period. One group of cows were bred to calve between January 17 and March 22 and were kept under moderate shelter. The other group was bred to calve between March 7 and May 22 and were kept under minimal shelter conditions.

Ross Gould, head of the special projects section of Alberta Agriculture's sheep and cattle branch, says the first year's findings should be of interest of Alberta cattlemen who are thinking of shifting their calving dates to avoid wet early spring calving conditions or the blackfly season.

Following is a list of the main findings:

- No major problems were encountered with cold weather in the early calving group, even when temperatures went down to -38° C!
- An outbreak of Rotoverius calf scours affected 45 per cent of the early and 53 per cent of the late-born calves.
- Ninety-seven per cent of the early-calving cows and 95 per cent of the late-calving cows were diagnosed as pregnant when they were weaned after the first pasture season.
- Winter costs were similar for both the hay and silage fed groups.
- Wintering costs (1979-80) were $168 for the early calving group and $150 for the late calving group.
- Early-born calves weighed 585 pounds when weaned in September while late-born calves weighed 482 pounds.

- 30 -

October 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL WATERING AND WINTER SURVIVAL OF TREES

A study conducted by Landscape Horticulture Research at the University of Minnesota, U.S.A., indicates that a late fall watering of trees and shrubs that have been subjected to dry weather during the late summer and early fall has little if any benefit.

The study was designed to determine the validity of recommending that trees, especially evergreens, which have suffered from lack of water in late August and early September be well watered just before freeze-up to reduce winter injury. The researchers found that as trees acclimatize to the cold weather, the water content in the tissues of those that had received an optimal level of soil moisture prior to the onset of the cold weather decreased to the same level as those which had been water-stressed. They also found that thoroughly watering water-stressed trees in November did not increase the water content in their tissues, and the trees sustained a considerable amount of winter injury to their foliage. The foliage of trees that had received ample moisture during the late summer and early fall sustained very little winter injury.

To prevent winter injury, the researchers suggest that trees and shrubs be watered before water-stress becomes severe, rather than in the late fall. They are planning to conduct further research to gain more insight into the relationship between the water content in the tissues of trees and winter injury.

- 30 -

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October 5, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEACE REGION FARM WIVES' CONFERENCE

"It's Up To You" is the theme for this year's Peace Region Farm Wives' Conference, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture. It is a two-day conference and will be held on November 18 and 19 in the High Prairie Legion Hall.

The program will focus on the ways that farm women can take the initiative to make changes in their lives and communities. The opening address, entitled "It Only Takes a Spark", will look at effective methods of bringing about desired changes.

There will also be a number of select-a-session topics, which will include presentations on northern gardening, family goal setting, herd health, surface rights, consumer awareness, home repairs and living on a two-generation family farm.

Up to 40 children, two and a half to six years old can participate in the children's program. Games, stories, songs and other activities will all contribute to an enjoyable and educational experience for them.

The district home economists in the Peace Region invite you to attend the Farm Wives' Conference. More information and registration forms can be obtained from any district office or via the Farm Wives' Action Line at 523-4561 extension 48.

The deadline for registering for the Farm Wives' Conference is November 10.

- 30 -

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1981

Symposium and Workshop on Dutch Elm Disease
International Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . October 5 - 8

Update '81
Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper, Alberta . . . . . October 5 - 9

Alberta Aviation Council — Annual General Meeting & Convention
Jasper Park Lodge
Jasper, Alberta . . . . . October 8 - 10

Western Farm Management Extension Committee Workshops
Holiday Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . October 14 - 16

"Taking Stock" — Market Prospects for Cattle and Hogs
The Westin Hotel (the former Calgary Inn)
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 19 - 20

Rocky Mountain Fall Livestock Show and Sale 1981
Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . October 21 - 29

Canadian Farm Writers Federation — Annual Meeting
Terrace Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . October 22 - 24

"Agricultural Lending — What's New?!!"
Holiday Inn
London, Ontario . . . . . October 25 - 28

Canadian Banker's Association 9th Agricultural Credit Conference
London, Ontario . . . . . October 26 - 28

"The Prairie Challenges"
Canada Grains Council — Semi Annual Meeting
Hotel Bessborough
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . October 27 - 28

Round-Up '81
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 31 - November 3

Women of Unifarm Convention
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . November 4 - 5

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

United Grain Growers Ltd — Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . November 4 - 5

"Convention '81"
Alberta Beekeepers Association
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 4 - 6

Edmonton Northlands Farmfair '81
Edmonton Northlands Sales Pavilion and Sportex
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 5 - 16

Canadian Greenhouse Conference
Guelph, Ontario . . . . . November 6 - 7

Agricultural Policy Issues Seminar
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 9 - 10

Royal Agriculture Winter Fair
The Coliseum
Exhibition Place
Toronto, Ontario. . . . . November 12 - 21

Canadian Dehy Conference
Convention Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 17 - 19

Seed Potato Growers Association of Alberta — Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . November 18

Alberta Potato Growers Association — Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . November 19

4-H Leaders' Conference
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . November 19 - 21

Canadian Nursery Trades Association
Banff, Alberta . . . . . November 19 - 22

Alberta Potato Commission — Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . November 20

Fall Fair and Mexabition
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 20 - 24

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Irrigation Projects Association (AIPA) — Annual Meeting
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . November 23

Alberta Wheat Pool — Annual Meeting
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 23 - December 4

National Forage Symposium
Convention Centre
Rideau Street
Ottawa, Ontario . . . . . November 24 - 26

Greenhouse Tomato Production Course
Alberta Horticultural Research Center
Brooks, Alberta . . . . . November 25

Alberta Sheep Symposium 1981
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . November 27 - 28

Agribition and Mexabition
Canadian Western Agribition
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 28 - December 4

Peace River Region Service Board Conference
Fairview College Auditorium
Fairview, Alberta . . . . . December 3

Federal Agricultural Outlook Conference
Government Conference Centre
Ottawa, Ontario . . . . . December 7 - 8

1982

Palliser Wheat Growers Association Convention
Winnipeg Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba . . . . . January 5 - 7

Third International Conference on Goat Production & Disease
Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A. . . . . January 10 - 15

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 11 - 15

Alberta Vegetable Growers Marketing Board — Annual Convention
Taber, Alberta . . . . . January 28

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Canola Growers Association — Annual Meeting
Calgary Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... January 28 - 29

Western Stock Growers Association — Annual Meeting and Convention
Capri Hotel
Red Deer, Alberta ..... January 28 - 30

Alberta Dairymen's Association — Annual Convention
Convention Inn South
Edmonton, Alberta ..... January 31 - February 2

Agriculture Service Board — Annual Conference
Calgary Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... January 31 - February 3

Society for Range Management — Annual Meeting
Calgary Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... February 8 - 12

Western Canadian Economic Conference on Food Industry
Terrace Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... February 15 - 16

Agriculture Week
Alberta ..... February 22 - 27

Ag Expo 1982
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... March 3 - 6

"A Pioneering Past . . . A Challenging Future"
Canadian Cattlemens Association
Calgary, Alberta ..... March 15 - 17

Accent '82
Calgary Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta ..... March 17 - 18

Northlands Stock Show and Sale
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta ..... March 21 - 27

Alberta Home Economics Association Conference
Calgary, Alberta ..... April 30 - May 2

Advanced Leadership Development
(Rural Communities, Farm Organizations)
Banff, Alberta ..... June 13 - 18

Alberta Pork Congress
Red Deer, Alberta ..... June 15 - 17

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Pork Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . June 20 - 22

Alberta Union of REAs
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . June 22 - 23

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 4 - 9

World Arabian Horse Organization — Annual Convention
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . August 16 - 20

World of Unifarm — Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 2 - 3

United Grain Growers Ltd — Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . November 3 - 4

Agricultural Business Management 1
Goldeye Centre, Alberta . . . . . November 15 - 17

Fall Fair and Mexabition
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 19 - 23

Agribition and Mexabition
Canadian Western Agribition
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 27 - December 3

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AGRI-NEWS

October 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Christmas Market Shopping. 1

Rural Nutritive Processors Receive Assistance. 3

Year-End Planning To Reduce The Farm Tax Bite 5

Alberta Abattoirs Aid Diabetics 9

Fall Soil Sampling. 10

Irrigation Study Results 12

Fall Management Of Dugouts And Ponds 13

Winter Injury To Evergreens 14

Tenderizing Beef. 16

Alberta

AGRICULTURE

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

October 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTMAS MARKET SHOPPING

Hand-crafted woolen articles displayed by a sheep producer at a Christmas market.

If you would like to get more than your money's worth when you do your Christmas shopping this year, and if you would like to get gifts that are unique, you can achieve both by visiting Alberta's farmers markets. You can also get custom made gifts if you shop early.

More than 50 markets throughout the province will be holding Christmas sales between the second week of November and two days before Christmas. Alberta Agriculture's commodity development branch will be running ads in the main papers in Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary which, between them, will list all the markets in the province that are having special Christmas sales, their locations, dates, times and contact people. There will also be ads etc. in local papers.

And what can you expect to find at these markets? The list is endless but here are a few of the more unique items. One market has hand-made violins, another has dolls' houses completely furnished with hand-made furniture, another has horse hair bridles, another

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Christmas Market Shopping (cont'd)

has custom-made jewellery and belt buckles, another has electric clocks set in a map of Alberta (Alberta clocks), another has very attractive cedar chests and still another has gunracks.

Items that can be found at many markets include jewellery; home-made dried flower arrangements; wall hangings; paintings; wooden and metal toys; macrame; ceramic and stained glass decorations; candles; home-made furniture; leather articles; sheep skins; raw, homespun and dyed wool; woven articles; childrens clothing; quilts; embroidered blankets and tablecloths; placemats; chocolates and other types of delicious candy; Christmas cakes and puddings; baked goods; ethnic foods; preserves; food hampers and a large selection of Christmas plants. Some markets also sell fish, ducks, geese and smoked meats.

Whether you are looking for an expensive or an inexpensive Christmas gift or something in between, you have an excellent chance of finding it at a farmers' market. And you will be getting a unique gift that was made by a craftsman or craftswoman since many of these people are real artists.

And that is not all. Many of the markets are planning special Christmas festivities and events. They will include such things as a Santa Claus, candle-making demonstrations, craft-making demonstrations, bread-making demonstrations, a ginger bread house raffle, turkey raffles, door prizes and sleigh rides to mention just a few.

If you would like to have the location of the markets that sell some of the more unusual items listed above or any other information about the markets, contact the Commodity Development Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-4017).

- 30 -

October 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RURAL NUTRITIVE PROCESSORS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

Seven more rural Alberta Nutritive Processing firms will receive assistance totalling more than half a million dollars under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement. The seven firms will be investigating more than $3 million in total and are expected to create 34 jobs.

The expansion of Newell Vegetables (1980) Ltd. in Brooks will be the largest of the projects. Newell Vegetables will receive $299,000 to go into the frozen processed vegetable field, which is estimated to cost $1.5 million. The expansion will involve the installation of two processing lines, new refrigeration units and a freeze tunnel. It is expected to create 21 new jobs.

Alberta Wheat Pool will receive $124,763 to help it expand its bean-processing plant at Bow Island, which cleans, sorts and packages dry edible beans and fababeans that are grown in the area. The expansion is estimated to cost $623,000 and will entail the installation of new receiving and storage facilities as well as electronic scanning devices. Two new jobs are expected to be created.

A proposed meat market that will be part of the new Ruether's General Store in Bruderheim will receive $29,140. Its estimated cost is $145,700, and it will produce four varieties of sausage as well as hamburger patties. It will also do custom cutting, cooling, quick-freezing, smoking and curing of pork, beef and poultry and process wild game. It is expected to create five new jobs.

Butte Feeds Ltd. will receive $14,563 to modernize and expand its livestock feedmill in Picture Butte. The project is estimated to cost $91,000 and will involve the construction of a new office and the installation of a 70-foot metric scale that is capable of weighing multi-axle vehicles.

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Rural Nutritive Processors Receive Assistance (cont'd)

Reid Hill Agricultural Services Ltd. of Vulcan will receive $43,751 to add a fertilizer blending facility to its bulk fertilizer operation at Reid Hill, which is approximately 20 km from Vulcan. The expansion is estimated to cost $437,500 and is expected to create three new jobs.

Stettler Fertilizer (1981) Ltd. will receive $20,441 to help expand its fertilizer blending plant which cannot meet the increased demand for blended fertilizer in the Stettler area. The proposed expansion will increase the plant's capacity by almost four times and is estimated to cost $136,000. It is expected to create three new jobs.

T.H. Rayson and Son Farm Services Ltd. at Paradise Valley will receive $9,923 to add a fertilizer blending facility to its farm service operation that now consists of bulk fuel and fertilizer distributorships and a garage. The estimated capital cost is $58,000.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement is jointly administered and equally funded by the federal and provincial governments.

- 30 -

October 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YEAR-END PLANNING TO REDUCE THE FARM TAX BITE

by Merle Good
Financial Management, Alberta Agriculture

With 1981 drawing to a close farmers should be thinking about income tax management. A little tax planning before the end of the year can save substantial tax dollars and leave more money for family living or farm investment.

However, it is important to realize that decisions made with the sole purpose of minimizing income taxes do not always result in the most net after tax income. For example, if a farmer deprives himself of one addition dollar of income to save tax (assuming a 30% tax bracket), the government will lose 30¢ of revenue, but the farmer will lose 70 per cent of his potential net income. Who suffers the most?

The important thing to remember is that income taxes should be treated like any other cost of doing business. Although costs should be minimized, they often have to be incurred to achieve maximum profits.

Before considering various tax strategies the accuracy of your income and expenses that have been recorded should be checked. Be sure that:

- All expense items are included. Out-of-pocket purchases are often missed, which results in minor items costing considerably more. For example, if a farmer fails to claim a one-dollar purchase, the net cost of that item (assuming a 25% tax bracket) is $1.33.
- Only interest is deducted as an expense on loan payments. Payments of principal are not deductible.
- Individual tools and equipment purchased for more than $200 are reported as depreciable assets. This restriction is not based upon an aggregate total of $200, but rather on each item purchased. For example, two items purchased for $150 each result in a deductible business expense of $300.

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Year-End Planning To Reduce The Farm Tax Bite (cont'd)

- The business portion of various expenses are included. Remember that a quarter of house maintenance and utility expenses and up to two-thirds of car expenses, including depreciation, can usually be claimed as business expenses.

- Annual accounting and legal fees for farm management and income tax purposes have been deducted. Legal, appraisal and accounting fees associated with buying land or equipment are added to the capital cost of the asset.

  Government subsidies or rebates that were received have been reported as income for the year, even if they were designed to reduce expenses or compensate for income losses in previous years.

- Proper procedures have been followed when reporting income from unusual sources, such as patronage dividends, insurance proceeds, commodity trading and oil and gas lease revenues. An Agri-Fax sheet entitled "Reporting Unusual Farm Income for Tax Purposes" discusses these and other unusual sources of income.

- A reasonable amount has been deducted as a business expense for business travel and for up to two conventions per year if applicable. Eligible expenses include travel, registration fees, meals and lodging. Make sure you have receipts to document these expenses.

Once you have determined what your projected taxable income is likely to be, the question is "Do I want to adjust it, and if so, in which direction?"

Strategies to Decrease Net or Taxable Income:

- Make payments on your outstanding fertilizer, fuel or feed bills.

- Buy, pay for and take delivery of fertilizer, chemicals, feed, fuel and other supply items.

- Postpone some sales or income. This is relatively easy to do with grain by using deferred delivery tickets. It also appears to be possible to get a double-whammy effect by both postponing income and deducting expenses in the same year by using deferred cash tickets. To achieve this goal, you should take your deferred cash ticket for grain delivered in 1981 to your farm supply dealer, endorse it and give it to the dealer as a postdated cheque to pay for supplies received during the current year. You can then use the dealer's receipt for payment as an expense. However, remember to include the amount of the ticket as income next year when the dealer will have cashed the ticket.

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Year-End Planning To Reduce The Farm Tax Bite (cont'd)

- Buy machinery. If you need it and plan to buy it this winter anyway, you can use the full capital cost allowance and investment tax credit to offset this year's income.
- Try to trade in equipment, if you are planning to do this, after your business year end. In this way you can delay any capital gains and allow one more year's capital cost allowance deductions.
- Pay your spouse and children a salary for work performed on the farm. If you are wondering whether this strategy is worth the extra paperwork, the answer is definitely yes!

This year's spousal marriage deduction is $2,780. However, a spouse can receive a salary of $5,400 in 1981 without paying any income tax. So if you are in the 30 per cent tax bracket (i.e. paying 30¢ on the dollar) a salary of $5,400 to your spouse will result in your own tax bill being reduced by approximately $786!

The same tax planning technique should be applied to your children. Children are allowed to earn $3,270 and still be classified as dependants. As dependants they are not required to pay any income tax or even to file a return.

Work out the effect on your tax situation of paying wages above the $3,270 level. You may be surprised at the results! For example, using 1981 tax rates, a salary of $6,000 paid to a child under 18 would trigger a $96 tax liability to the child and a net tax savings of $1,623 (assuming the same 30% tax bracket) to the parent.

Remember: A Salary Of $5,400 Attracts No Tax In 1981.

Strategies for Increasing Net or Taxable Income:

If you want to increase your income to facilitate the full use of personal exemptions and Canada Pension Plan contributions or to claim previous business losses, consider these strategies:

- Purchase farm supplies on supplier credit rather than bank credit.
- Sell livestock or feed before the end of your business year.

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Year-End Planning To Reduce The Farm Tax Bite (cont'd)

- Use the livestock inventory provision. Farmers who file their income tax on the cash basis, and have livestock, may add to their current year's income any amount up to the fair market value of the livestock (excluding basic herd). However, the amount added to income in one year must be deducted from the income of the following year.

More Tax Strategies:

Other tax strategies include buying a registered retirement savings plan, a registered home ownership savings plan and an income averaging annuity contract; using various business arrangements; changing the business' fiscal year-end and the proper treatment of capital gains and losses.

A farmer who is eligible to do so can use the five-year block average to reduce taxes payable. When using the block average, investigate the quirk in the rules which allow an investment tax credit to be claimed twice. (See the business investment tax credit section of the Farmer's Income Tax Guide).

Summary

The most important point to remember in tax management is that the exercise is a 12-month-a-year task. Most of the strategies discussed here are of little value once the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve. A good set of records will tell you what your specific situation is, and they can be used to reveal which tax alternatives are best for you.

Farmers with limited cash at the end of their business year should consider borrowing funds to implement some of these alternatives. But the effect on profitability, cash flow bottlenecks and future repayment ability must be closely monitored. Remember, the objective is to Maximize Profit, Not To Minimize Tax.

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has published a booklet entitled "Tax Management Strategies for Alberta Farmers" (Agdex No.837), which deals with these and other topics in greater detail. It is available from your local district agriculturist, regional farm economist or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

October 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA ABATTOIRS AID DIABETICS

Did you know that many of Alberta's government-inspected abattoirs or slaughtering plants play an important role in supplying the insulin that is required by thousands of diabetics to enable them to live near-normal lives?

Susan Klaver of Alberta Agriculture's food marketing branch explains that insulin is a hormone that is produced by a gland near the stomach, known as the pancreas. This gland helps to regulate the amount of sugar in the blood of healthy people. However, in many diabetics it does not secrete enough insulin, and they must get it from another source. This other source is the pancreatic glands of cattle and pigs.

The glands, which are taken from the carcasses of cattle and pigs at many abattoirs, are carefully trimmed and frozen. When a sufficient quantity have been collected, the manager of the abattoir sends them to Toronto for processing. The processing is done in laboratories and entails grinding the glands, extracting the insulin from them, purifying it and bottling it.

According to Ms. Klaver 8,300 pounds of frozen pancreatic glands are required to produce one pound of manufactured insulin. She says that the Canadian Diabetes Association estimates that there are more than 400,000 diabetics in Canada and that many of them have to take insulin injections every day of their lives. Hence, the time and effort expended by Alberta's abattoirs to collect pancreatic glands is truly a life-saving activity.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL SOIL SAMPLING

Have you taken soil samples of your fields this fall? The early harvest coupled with nice weather would seem to make this an ideal time to do the job.

Soil testing will enable you to get a fertilizer formulation that will best provide the nutrients that future crops will require at the lowest possible cost. In other words, it will help you to determine whether you need a low, intermediate or high rate of fertilizer and it will tell you how much you should apply.

The soil testing laboratory where the samples are interpreted can also tell you what level of yield increase you can expect from applying additional rates of nitrogen. Then you can decide at what level it is no longer economical for you to apply nitrogen.

In addition to determining the nutrient status of your soil, a soil test will provide such information as the kind and amount of soluble salts in the soil, the existence of acid or alkaline conditions, the texture of the soil, the presence of free lime and an estimate of the organic matter level.

Sampling Procedure

. Size up each field. You may have to sample separately areas which show variations in texture, color, slope, degree of erosion, drainage, crop growth or yield as well as those that have had different past treatment (i.e. fertilizing, manuring or cropping).

. Either avoid or collect separate samples from small areas such as dead or back furrows; old straw, hay or manure pile bottoms; waterways, saline spots; eroded knolls; fence rows; fertilizer bands; areas where piles of brush were burned and other unusual places.

. Select 15 - 20 sampling sites.

. Sample the soil to a depth of six inches at each of the sampling sites, and take separate samples at depths of 0 - 6 inches, 6 - 12 inches and 12 - 24 inches in problem soils.

- (cont'd) -

Fall Soil Sampling (cont'd)

. Place the core samples in clean pails or bags.

. Mix the core samples thoroughly and crush any lumps that may be present.

. Keep samples taken at different depths separately.

. Dry soil samples by spreading a thin layer of soil on a clean paper in a clean place at room temperature. Do not dry them with artificial heat.

You can sample fields that are seeded in the spring anytime after October 1, but do not sample waterlogged or frozen soils.

You can get a soil sampling kit and an information sheet, which must be filled out and sent to the soil testing laboratory, from any district agriculturist's office.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRRIGATION STUDY RESULTS

A study carried out between 1977 and 1980 at 27 centre pivot irrigated sites, involving major crops and irrigation districts in southern Alberta, showed no evidence of salt build-up under current water management practices.

The study also showed that the soluble salt content of centre pivot irrigated soils changed with the season, and that it was always higher in the spring than in the fall. It was also found that the salt content increased with depth of soil, and that the surface soil was relatively free of salt. Where insufficient irrigation water was applied, natural leaching occurred after a heavy rain, and this periodic leaching appears to maintain an adequate balance of soluble salts in the soil.

According to the study results, centre pivot irrigation practices provide about two-thirds of the water required for maximum crop growth and yields are about two-thirds of their potential. More irrigation water and such things as more fertilizer and better weed and pest control would be required for maximum benefits to be realized from centre pivot irrigation in terms of higher crop yields.

Detailed information on the study is contained in an Alberta Agriculture publication entitled "Evaluation of Centre Pivot Irrigation Practices " (Agdex 565-1) which can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K TC8. Information on irrigation in general can be obtained from Soil and Water Specialists, Farm Irrigation Services Branch, Irrigation Division, Alberta Agriculture, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4C7.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL MANAGEMENT OF DUGOUTS AND PONDS

Oxygenating dugouts and fish ponds in the fall and repairing their shorelines are recommended for the long-term control of algae.

According to Dr. J.R. Allan, a plant physiologist at the federal research station at Lethbridge, chemicals can be used to provide short-term control of the vegetation in dugouts and ponds but oxygenating, which maintains a high level of dissolved oxygen in the water, is the best long-term algae control method. He also says that an irrigation pump can be used to suck cool, clear water from near the bottom of the dugout or pond and to release it in the form of a fountain or stream at the opposite end. This, he points out, will oxygenate the water, stimulate its circulation, prevent stagnation and cool the water by mixing it from top to bottom. Oxygenation will remove the conditions that favor algae growth by ensuring the high level of oxygen that will be needed when the plant material decays during the winter. It will also ensure the high level of oxygen that is needed for trout production.

The removal of decaying organic matter from the shoreline of a dugout or pond will limit the introduction of nutrients into the water during spring runoff and enable such low growing grasses as streambank wheatgrass and creeping red fescue to prevent the bank from eroding. Steep banks can be stabilized with field rock. However, it may be necessary to build a retaining wall if the bank is very steep. Dr. Allan says to be sure to seed low growing grasses behind a rock wall and to use field rock at the inlet to form a drop-structure or waterfall. This will aerate the water and prevent silt and organic matter from entering the dugout or pond.

- 30 -

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October 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER INJURY TO EVERGREENS

If you have one or more favorite evergreens in your garden, here is what you can do to protect them against winter injury.

Give them a thorough watering before freeze-up. This practice is particularly important after a dry summer or fall, and for evergreens growing under the overhang of the house.

You can increase the moisture retention of evergreens and decrease the depth the frost penetrates the soil by putting a mulch of leaf mould, peat moss, chopped straw or another suitable material around the base of evergreens in the fall. Mulches will also prevent the soil from thawing out during the winter. However, they should not be put up against the trunks of evergreens until the evergreens have hardened off properly.

Another thing that you can do to protect young evergreens that are in an exposed location is erect screens made of canvas, plastic, burlap or slats on their south and west sides. A burlap screen will also shade the trees and prevent excessive moisture loss. The screens should be placed at least two feet away from the trees.

Antidesiccant sprays are also used in the fall to protect young evergreens and full-grown cedars and junipers from winter drought injury. These sprays prevent the loss of moisture via the foliage.

Any evergreens that show signs of cold and drought injury next spring should be watered as soon as the ground thaws. A light fertilizer at that time is also helpful. Since

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Winter Injury To Evergreens (cont'd)

injured trees are slow to begin growing, branches should not be pruned or any of the trees removed until it is possible to see what is really dead.

Information on the causes and symptoms of winter injury in evergreens is contained in a publication entitled "Winter Injury to Evergreens" (Agdex 275/690-1). It can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

October 12, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TENDERIZING BEEF

How can one tenderize some of the more economical beef cuts?

According to Betty-Anne Carey, marketing officer with Alberta Agriculture, there are three basic ways. They are marinating, using a commercial tenderizer and cooking the meat in moist heat.

Most marinades are made with a vegetable oil and a tenderizing acid such as vinegar, lemon juice or wine to which is added spices or seasoning. The marinade helps to soften the connective tissue in the meat. After scoring or piercing the meat numerous times with a fork to allow the marinade to penetrate it, put the marinade and the meat into a non-porous container. Make sure the meat is completely covered and turn it at least once during the marinating process.

Although a warm temperature hastens the marinating process, the meat should be refrigerated if it is to be marinated for more than an hour because a warm temperature also encourages bacterial activity.

Ms. Carey recommends marinating cubes and strips of beef for three to six hours, round steaks overnight and blade and crossrib roasts for at least 24 hours. She also says to drain the meat on a paper towel to remove the excess oil from the marinade before cooking the meat.

Marinades may be cooked or uncooked , and a cooked marinade should be thoroughly chilled before it is used. Both types can be used in a sauce over the meat.

Commercial tenderizers contain the enzyme papain which is prepared from green papaya fruit. The papain softens the connective tissues and the muscle fibre in meat during

- (cont'd) -

Tenderizing Beef (cont'd)

the cooking process and has its greatest effect when the cooking temperature is between 140° C (280° F) and 170° C (350° F). It is a good idea to pound the meat before sprinkling it with the tenderizer. Then pierce it with a fork to allow the enzyme to penetrate it and put it in the oven.

The moist heat methods of tenderizing beef are recommended for cuts from the chuck or brisket areas of the carcass. Put the meat in a liquid, preferably an acid liquid like tomato juice, cover it and cook it in an oven temperature of from 150° C (300° F) to 160° C (325° F) for approximately 30 minutes per pound.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

October 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Alaska-Alberta Research Agreement Re-Named 1

Feed Freight Assistance Program Details 2

Implants — A Good Investment 4

Alberta To Host British Delegate 5

Protecting Trees Against Rodent Damage 6

Fall Garden Sanitation Controls Disease 8

Planting Fruit Trees On The Prairies 9

4-H's First National Careers Conference 11

Pork Industry Appointments 12

District Home Economist Appointments 14

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

October 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALASKA-ALBERTA RESEARCH AGREEMENT RE-NAMED

An agreement to foster co-operation in agriculture research between the State of Alaska and the Province of Alberta has been re-named in memory of a former Alberta deputy minister of agriculture.

Originally called the Alaska-Alberta Agreement, it will now be known as the Dr. Jim O'Donoghue Agreement after the man who served as Alberta's deputy minister of agriculture from April, 1975 to June, 1981. Dr. O'Donoghue displayed a keen interest in Alaskan agriculture and strongly supported discussions which led to the signing last June of the Alaska-Alberta Research Agreement by Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, and Alaska's director of agriculture, Dominic Carney.

The objectives of the agreement include joint agricultural research projects, an exchange of research information and a more co-ordinated state-provincial effort in research and agricultural trade.

Since northern Alberta and the State of Alaska are similar in climate and topography, Dr. O'Donoghue was eager to share Alberta's experience in land clearing, financing and crop varieties. This is something the agreement makes provisions for.

Alaskan officials are eager to benefit from the O'Donoghue agreement, and have named Dr. Jim Drew director of the agricultural experiment station at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks and Dr. Robert Parkerson manager of the plant materials center at Palmer, Alaska, as representatives on a committee to co-ordinate the various objectives of the agreement. Alberta Agriculture's representatives are Dr. A.O. Olson, assistant deputy minister, research and operations, and B.D. Mehr, assistant deputy minister, international marketing.

The Dr. Jim O'Donoghue Agreement will conclude on December 31, 1987.

- 30 -

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October 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DETAILS

The 1981-82 Alberta Livestock Feed Freight Assistance Program is intended to help farmers in those areas of the province where this year's forage crops were seriously reduced by drought to secure winter feed for their basic cattle herds and sheep flocks. It does not cover finishing livestock operations.

Bruce Jeffery, head of Alberta Agriculture's animal industry division, says municipal councils and Agricultural Development Corporation committees have been asked to assess the forage situation to see if government assistance is warranted in the following areas: M.D's 52, 87, 61 and 92; Counties 29, 9, 27, 30, 13, 19, 24, 7 and 12; I.D. 18 and the Peace River block. He also says that as soon as the assessement has been carried out, application forms will be sent to district agriculturists in all the areas that are eligible for assistance.

Under the 1981-82 program, assistance will be paid for the one-way transportation of feed on distances that exceed 25 miles up to a maximum of $30 per ton. And it covers the eligible portion of the transportation costs regardless of whether the farmer hauls the feed himself or pays somebody else to haul it.

The Alberta Livestock Feed Freight Assistance Program is retroactive to August 1, 1981 and will continue in effect until March 31, 1982. The freight assistance rates under it are 14¢ per ton-mile for hay and straw; 6¢ per ton-mile for silage and 9¢ per ton-mile for cubes and pellets. The maximum assistance paid to any one farmer, partnership or corporation will not exceed $5,000.

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Feed Freight Assistance Program Details (cont'd)

All applicants must accompany their application forms with a receipted invoice which gives the following information.

- Type and quantity of feed purchased.
- Price per unit and total price of purchase.
- Date of purchase and delivery.
- Date of transportation.
- Full name and address of vendor and purchaser.

A farmer who pays another person to haul his feed must provide the same information via a receipted freight bill and a receipted invoice from the vendor.

- 30 -

October 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPLANTS – A GOOD INVESTMENT

Implants to stimulate livestock growth are a good investment, according to Agriculture Canada scientists who are working in this field.

Implants are natural hormones that stimulate an animal's growth rate, and thereby increasing its feed conversion efficiency. Their use can also result in a higher proportion of lean meat to fat.

Studies carried out on beef cattle at the federal research station at Fredericton, New Brunswick, have shown that for every $1 invested in implants, a farmer can expect to get back about $10 from additional weight gain and a better feed conversion rate. Another experiment carried out at the same place showed that calves that had been implanted at seven months of age and again at 11 months of age gained an average of 2.7 pounds per day compared with 2.4 pounds per day for the calves that had been implanted at seven months of age only. Both groups were fed corn silage and a barley-based supplement.

The weight gain over the 102 days that followed the second implanting worked out to 30 pounds, which at today's beef prices would be about $20. Best results from implants are apparently obtained when they are used at least 150 days before an animal is slaughtered.

A federal regulation states that farmers cannot use an implant less than 65 days before slaughter. It is intended to ensure that no trace of the hormone will be present in the carcass.

Other studies carried out by Agriculture Canada scientists are reported to have shown that calves that were implanted at birth and re-implanted every 100 days until they were slaughtered gain 84 pounds more than those that received no implants.

Implanting is not recommended for heifers that will be kept for herd replacements or for bulls that will be used for breeding.

- 30 -

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October 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA TO HOST BRITISH DELEGATE

Alberta is to host a 20 year-old farmer from Gloucestershire, England. He is David Watts of the Gloucester Young Farmers' Club and is one of five young farmer delegates who were chosen to represent Great Britain under the United Kingdom Exchange Program.

Upon arrival his arrival in Edmonton on October 19, Mr. Watts will go to Mr. and Mrs. John Ruud of Vermilion for the first two weeks of his month's stay in Alberta. He will spend his remaining two weeks with Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell of Black Diamond, whose son, Matthew, was one of five Canadian 4-H'ers who were chosen to represent Canada in the United Kingdom under the same exchange program.

In addition to participating in the daily routine of his host families, Mr. Watts will attend 4-H meetings, achievement days and rallies. He will also visit a number of historical and cultural points of interest in Alberta and participate in some non-4-H activities.

Manitoba, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland are also participating in the United Kingdom Exchange Program, which is sponsored by Shell Oil of Canada. It is designed to give young British farmers an opportunity to learn about Canadian agriculture and to become familiar with the 4-H movement.

- 30 -

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October 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROTECTING TREES AGAINST RODENT DAMAGE

Tree guards and repellents are among the devices that you can use to protect small plantings of fruit and ornamental trees or orchards against mouse, rabbit and deer damage.

Tree Guards

Dr. Ronald Howard of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks recommends using guards made of 10-20 mm square wire screen and setting them 7.5-10 cm into the ground. He says they should normally reach a height of 50 cm above the ground, but their height will have to be extended to reach at least 50 cm above the snow line to prevent rabbit injury in areas which receive a heavy snowfall.

To prevent deer from damaging trees, Dr. Howard recommends wrapping the trunks of the trees with burlap or sisal kraft paper. This, he says, should stop them from "ringing" the trees but it may not stop them from chewing some of the branches. Deer fences are expensive, but represent a good long-term solution to tree and garden damage in areas where deer are prevalent.

Repellents

Skoot, Arborgard Rodent Repellent and Wilson's Rabbit Repellent are some of the ready-made repellents that are available to discourage mice, rabbits and deer from feeding on trees. They all contain thiram, which is a chemical whose bitter tasted discourages feeding.

Dr. Howard recommends applying repellents in the late fall when the trunks and branches of the trees are dry and the leaves have fallen, but the temperature should be above freezing. The repellents should be applied to all surfaces to a height of at least one metre above the snowline.

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Protecting Trees Against Rodent Damage (cont'd)

You can make an effective repellent yourself by mixing one part thiram 75 per cent wettable powder (WP) with 10 parts, by weight, of water emulsifiable black asphalt. If you would like to protect your trees against sunscald as well as rodents, Dr. Howard says you can do so by mixing one kg of thiram 75 WP with 2.2 L of water and slowly blending the mixture into 4.5 L (one gallon) of white exterior latex paint. Again cover all surfaces to a height of at least one m above the snowline.

When rodent damage is not a problem, but you want to protect your trees against sunscald, Dr. Howard recommends simply painting the susceptible areas with an exterior white latex paint. Susceptible areas are those that face south, and young trees are particularly vulnerable to sunscald because their bark is relatively thin and their branches do not provide much shade. Oil-based paints are not recommended for this purpose because they may injure the tree.

Relatively simple booms can be constructed for applying latex paint when a large number of trees have to be treated. You can obtain plans for these by writing to: The Library, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FALL GARDEN SANITATION CONTROLS DISEASES

This is the time to start a disease control program for next year's fruit, vegetable and ornamental plantings, says Dr. Ronald Howard, who is a plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

He points out that many plant diseases and insect pests survive the winter on plant refuse, and that future problems will be greatly reduced if the debris is removed before winter sets in.

Some common vegetable disease problems that can be reduced by good fall sanitation include white and grey molds, bacterial soft rot, powdery mildew and other leaf spots and blights and root rot. In the case of tree and bush fruits, such diseases as fireblight, powdery mildew, cane blight and leaf spots can also be controlled for the most part by a good sanitation program. Dr. Howard points out that recommendations for controlling such diseases of ornamentals as powdery mildew; botrytis blight; bulb, corm and tuber rots and rusts invariably stress the importance of fall sanitation. Dr. Howard says the removal of plant debris will generally delay the development of serious disease problems in small gardens where diseases are more likely to build up because crop rotation is limited or not feasible.

He also says that compost material should not be spread on the garden until all the plant debris is completely decomposed to avoid the spread of disease. Many disease organisms are destroyed in properly decomposed compost material. However, plant refuse should be destroyed rather than used for compost if garden disease problems have been severe.

- 30 -

October 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANTING FRUIT TREES ON THE PRAIRIES

Although April or early May is the ideal time to plant fruit trees on the Prairies, they can also be planted in the October to freeze-up period.

Dr. I.R. Evans of Alberta Agriculture recommends the following planting procedure.

- Thoroughly soak soil that is very dry with a trickle hose until the ground is soft.
- Plant the tree in a hole that is considerably larger and deeper than the root ball or container, and plant it about 2 cm deeper than the original soil line. Water the tree heavily for the first few days.
- Prune up to 40 per cent of the top growth, mainly side branches, if the tree is not being transplanted from a container (i.e. if it is bare-rooted or wrapped in burlap). Pruning will reduce the water stress on the newly planted tree until its root system has had a chance to redevelop.
- Plant fruit trees at least 3 m away from any large trees and avoid heavily shaded areas. Remove the roots of large trees that are nearby by pushing a spade down to a depth of 30 cm or more within a 1.5 m radius of the newly planted tree.
- Plant fruit trees in a grassed area in the parkland region of the province because the grass will help to remove excess water and nitrogen, especially during a wet summer. The objective here is to prevent winter killing by slowing tree growth in July and August and allowing the new growth to harden off by fall.
- Plant fruit trees in a well drained area that is never subjected to summer flooding. Do not plant them in a wet alkaline or poorly drained area.
- Water trees that you have planted this fall heavily in May and June next year, but do not apply a fertilizer. In subsequent years, fertilize in May and June and water heavily until the first week of July. Do not water in July, August or September unless the summer is very dry.

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Planting Fruit Trees On the Prairies (cont'd)

- Plan ahead when moving a fruit tree from one location to another. Cut around it in April according to the size of root ball that you want and then move it the following fall or the following spring. It will be much easier to move when this has been done because it will have developed new roots inside the root ball. However, a root-pruned tree may need watering before it is moved if the weather is dry.

- Water all fruit trees in late October, regardless of whether they are newly planted or well established, so that they have an adequate supply of water over the winter. This practice is very important after a dry summer.

- 30 -

October 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H'S FIRST NATIONAL CAREERS CONFERENCE

Fifty 4-H members from across Canada participated in the first National 4-H Careers Conference which was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Alberta was represented at the four-day conference by a junior leader from the Tilley 4-H Beef Club. She was Christine Petersen, 18, who has been an active member with 4-H since 1973. She has won such awards as the 1979-80 Beef Club Championship, and she was the 1980 Club Efficiency Winner. For the past two years, she has won the Tilley 4-H Beef Club's public speaking award, and is presently enrolled in her first year of home economics at the University of Alberta.

The main objectives' of the conference were to assist delegates in the choice of a career to make them aware of the importance of "agribusiness" in Winnipeg, and to emphasize Canada's dependence on and involvement in agriculture.

Nori Richie, co-ordinator for the careers conference, says, "This was a great opportunity for members to learn how to write a proper resume and how to present themselves when they do, in fact, apply for a job."

Members were also told about the various positions that are available in the agriculture industry and the type of education that is required for those positions.

The 4-Her's were divided into six groups and then sent out to interview two prospective employers each day. The members also had to compile a resume for a specific position they wanted to apply for, and were then interviewed by the prospective employer.

Major national sponsors for the event were Westeel-Rosco Ltd., the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Canadian Aberdeen Angus Association.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORK INDUSTRY APPOINTMENTS

The head of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch, Fred Schuld, has announced the appointment of Arthur Lange to the position of assistant supervisor of swine breeding and the appointment of Marvin Salomons to the position of regional swine specialist at Barrhead.

Mr. Lange

Mr. Lange will be responsible for the farm testing aspect of the federal-provincial swine Record of Performance Program which measures backfat and growth rates. He will also help to supervise technicians who do the actual on-farm measuring and he will work with farmers on a program designed to identify superior stock and to develop breeding plans for its use.

Mr. Lange was born in Germany, but grew up in Calgary. He worked on a grain farm and in a veterinary clinic near Calgary on a part-time basis while attending school. He later worked part-time on a hog and cattle farm.

Mr. Lange graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1968, having specialized in animal science. Following graduation, he became district manager of farm machinery dealers for Massey Ferguson in Edmonton and Calgary. In 1970 he joined the federal government's Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs where he enforced food and dairy regulations regarding packaging, labelling and standards related to the composition of foods and he later became district manager. As district manager he supervised a group of inspectors who enforced the act and regulations that pertain to agricultural products. From 1976-1981 he was territory manager for Pfizer Canada Inc. Here he was responsible for feed medication and animal health product sales to feed mills, farm supply stores and country drug stores in Northern Alberta as well as for promoting an understanding of the company's products.

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Pork Industry Appointments (cont'd)

Mr. Salomons

Mr. Salomons will work with district agriculturists, pork producers and others involved in the hog industry northwest of Edmonton and south to Leduc. He will provide information and advice on the production of pigs in that area and co-ordinate the department's pork production programs.

Mr. Salomons comes from the Lacombe area where his parents had a mixed farm, and where he spent six years in the local 4-H beef club. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (biology) in 1972, a B.Sc. (zoology) in 1973 and an M.Sc. (animal science) in 1977.

While at university Mr. Salomons spent two summers working as a technical research assistant in Alberta Agriculture's Veterinary Services Division. From 1977 until the present time he has been working for the feed and fertilizer division of Agriculture Canada in Ottawa. His work involved developing and implementing feed programs and policies to monitor compliance and safety under the Feeds Act.

- 30 -

October 19, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTMENTS

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Barbara McArthur to the position of district home economist at Wainwright and that Lona Leiren and Sharon Cummins will be taking their district home economist training at Leduc and Lamont respectively.

Ms. McArthur

Ms. McArthur was born and raised on a dairy farm in Eastern Ontario where she was a member of 4-H and Junior Farmers. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1971, having majored in foods and nutrition. Following graduation she worked as an extension home economist for the Ontario Ministry of Food and Agriculture until 1979. From 1979 until her present appointment, her work experience has included free-lance livestock photography and advertising work, employment in a veterinary clinic and employment in various capacities in the retail trade.

Ms. Leiren

Ms. Leiren was born in Edmonton and raised on a mixed farm in the Bawlf area. She obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) with a major in clothing and textiles from the University of Alberta in 1981. Her summer jobs included working for the Camrose and Edmonton savings and credit unions, working at the Rutherford Library and working as a summer assistant district home economist for Alberta Agriculture at Spirit River.

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District Home Economist Appointments (cont'd)

Ms. Cummins

Ms. Cummins was born in Edmonton but grew up in Calgary. She graduated from the University of Alberta this year with a B.Sc. (home economics) and a major in clothing and textiles. Her summer jobs have included cashier at a super market, assistant at a daycare centre, assistant clothing and textile technician at the University of Alberta, social history cataloguer and research assistant at the Provincial Museum and summer assistant to Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Barrhead.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

AL/A39/AH6/A37/81-10-26

October 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Museum Artifacts Saved By Fumigator 1
Seven Alberta Firms Receive Nutritive Processing Assistance 3
Energy Saving Suggestions. 5
Ralgro And Synovex Heifer Feedlot Trial 8
United Efforts Can Beat European Cornborer 9
Advantages Of Rural Crime Watch 11
Beef Marketing Seminar In Ponoka 12
Two 4-H Leaders Off To Washington 13
Winner of Premier's Award 14
Halloween Safety And Masks 15
Octoberfests 17

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October 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM ARTIFACTS SAVED BY FUMIGATOR

The fumigator that saved the museum artifacts.

A fumigator owned by the Alberta Beekeepers Association and designed by Alberta Agriculture saves museum artifacts.

It all started when a flying insect was spotted in the storage area of the Glenbow Museum's department of ethnology. Two weeks later when a staff member was checking Cree Indian artifacts, he discovered a heavy infestation of moths, larvae and eggs in one of the storage cabinets.

Specimens were promptly sent to the University of Calgary where they were identified by entomologists as the common clothes moth. Since the storage area contained furs, feathers, textiles and leather, the situation was very serious indeed. In fact, it was so serious that two conservators from the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa flew to Calgary to help isolate the infested area, to seal storage cabinets and to prepare the infested material for fumigation.

However, because the individual areas in the Glenbow Museum cannot be isolated from the rest of the building, fumigating the collections posed a real problem. Museum staff

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Museum Artifacts Saved By Fumigator (cont'd)

had contacted fumigators and exterminators across Western Canada, but none had the capacity to fumigate the cabinets outside the building, and it would have taken weeks to do the job in the museum's small fumigation chamber. John Kienholz of Alberta Agriculture's engineering and rural services division, says if the fumigating was done in the areas where the infestations were located, the whole building would have had to be evacuated and left empty for several weeks. And since the power would have had to be turned off, the security system would have been out of commission and the temperature and humidity, which are crucial in the preservation of artifacts, could not have been controlled.

It was at this point that the museum officials were referred to the Alberta Beekeepers Association which has the only mobile fumigator in Western Canada large enough to hold the storage cabinets that had to be fumigated to destroy the millions of eggs that were embedded in the wood. It was a prototype model designed in 1979 by Alberta Agriculture's engineering and rural services division.

The fumigator was immediately taken to the museum and each cabinet was put into an autoclave where the temperature and humidity were maintained in the range required to prevent the artifacts from deteriorating. Since the fumigant used in this case was extremely toxic, the whole procedure had to be very strictly controlled to ensure that it met environmental, health and safety standards.

So, thanks to Alberta Agriculture's engineering skills and the co-operation of the Alberta Beekeepers Association, the problem at the Glenbow museum has been solved and its priceless artifacts will be preserved unscathed for prosperity.

- 30 -

October 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEVEN ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE

Four meat processors are among seven Alberta processing firms that will receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

Eastalta Co-op Ltd. will receive $29,331 to relocate its Vermilion meat processing operation in a new food store complex that it is building in the town. The estimated capital cost of the new facility is $146,000.

Carrington O'Brien Foods Ltd. of Rocky Mountain House will receive $21,985 to help establish a meat processing operation in Vermilion. The new facility will be part of a grocery and hardware store the company plans to open in the new Vermilion shopping centre. The estimated capital cost is $110,000 and five new jobs are expected to be created.

Daniel and Frank Fletcher will receive $9,667 to build a meat processing facility at Whitelaw. They intend to cut and wrap meat and big game for the local market and to eventually add a smoke house for processing ham and sausages. The estimated capital cost of the project is $40,000 and two jobs are expected to be created.

Hamel's Meats Ltd. of Grand Centre will receive $7,160 to install a new cooler, freezer and sausage-making equipment. The estimated capital cost of the project is $36,000.

Jonk Farms Ltd. of Westlock will receive $141,394 to put an alfalfa pelletting plant at Boyle back into production. The plant, which has been inoperative for the last two years, will be able to produce 13,000 tons of pellets a year when it has been modernized. Eighty per cent of the pellets will be sold outside Canada, mainly to Japan and Korea. The estimated capital cost of the project is $785,000 and 10 jobs are expected to be created.

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Seven Alberta Firms Receive Nutritive Processing Assistance (cont'd)

Brian Fiveland will receive $34,969 to help build an alfalfa processing plant near Calmar. The plant will dehydrate alfalfa and bale it for the commercial market. The estimated capital of the new plant is $233,000.

St. Paul Hatcheries (1979) Ltd. of St. Paul will receive $47,566 to add a poultry processing facility to its hatchery. In addition to processing fowl for the retail market and fast food outlets, the firm will do custom processing for local farmers. The estimated capital cost of the addition is $170,000 and six new jobs are expected to be created.

Assistance to the above firms was announced by Senator H.A. Olson, federal minister of state for Economic Development and Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture. The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

October 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY SAVING SUGGESTIONS

by Edwin Thornton
Alberta Agriculture

The catchword for the 1980's is energy! Whether it is oil from the ground or hot air from the politicians, there is too much in one place and not enough in another. And the price is exhorbitant everywhere.

It will save a lot of optimistic wishful thinking if we accept the fact that fuel prices are going to go up. The new energy pricing agreement has given us a pricing structure with which to plan future farm operations. It is written that by 1986 the cost of fuel will be at least double what it is now. In other words, if it cost $600 to heat your home last year, it will cost $1,300 in 1986 – unless you do something.

We should not expect the government to give money away in order to subsidize people who want to waste energy. But what can we do?

The first step in any energy conservation program is to find out where the energy is going. To do this you should collect all your previous farm bills for fuel, fertilizers, etc. and add up the amounts for diesel fuel, gasoline, natural gas, fertilizers, etc. This information will show you where you are spending the most money. It is easier to work in dollars rather than energy units since it is dollars that you are worried about; not gigajoules!

When you have totalled up the various amounts for energy, and had a stiff drink, look at the column that shows the most money spent. It may be the fertilizer column, it may be the natural gas column. Whichever it is, that is the one to work on.

If your diesel fuel bill was $3,600 and your gas bill for home heating only $600, your potential for saving the most is obviously on your diesel fuel. Among the practices that you could adopt to reduce your fuel consumption are: keeping your forage harvester blades

- (cont'd) -

Energy Saving Suggestions (cont'd)

sharp, using the correct tillage depth for your implements, tuning tractor engines etc. and keeping air cleaners clean. Among other practices that will help to conserve fuel are using the highest gear that is compatible with field conditions, and, when possible, loading the tractor to at least three-quarters of its rated power output.

It is difficult to see how you can save money from such a simple thing as changing your driving habits, but it can make a difference. However, the only way you will notice a difference is if you do it consistently for a year. Then see if your fuel consumption is less than it was before for the same number of hours worked.

In southern Alberta it is irrigation that is often the largest user of energy. Alberta Agriculture's irrigation division has a program for testing the efficiency of pumps and motors. And remember, it is wasteful to use irrigation sprinklers during a strong, drying wind because a large amount of the water will evaporate. You may not be paying for the water, but you are paying for the energy to pump it.

Since fertilizers often represent a large expense, take soil samples before applying them so that you do not use more fertilizer than is necessary.

In the case of farm buildings, pay close attention to your ventilation controls. This practice can save you dollars without your having to invest any.

All practices listed above may not seem exciting or even useful, but close attention to conservation practices can save you as much as 10 per cent on your farm-energy bill without your having to spend a cent. Remember, that any practice that produces the same with less input, or more for the same input, is saving you energy and therefore money.

Be careful of new and untried technology. Solar power, for example, may work very well in California, but the time you want the sun's heat in Alberta is in the middle of winter, and that is just the time that the sun gives the least heat. Although wind power is

Energy Saving Suggestions (cont'd)

becoming economical in southern Alberta, it would not be very much help in Fort McMurray. Similarly methane digesters are fine in the summer, but when you want to use the gas in the winter, you have to use it all to keep the digester warm.

The one sure way of saving energy is to buy insulation. It is the cheapest form of "fuel". The amount you should use will depend upon the type of building you intend to insulate and what it is being used for.

Alberta Agriculture now has a program underway that is designed to make an energy audit on farms and ranches and to advise the owners on ways to save fuel. If you are interested, contact your regional engineer or the Engineering Resource Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RALGRO AND SYNOVEX HEIFER FEEDLOT TRIAL

A feedlot trial conducted at Claresholm to compare the difference in rate of gain when feedlot heifers were implanted with Ralgro and Synovex H showed that the best gains were achieved with Synovex H.

The 104-day trial was conducted in the Gordon Laing feedlot near Claresholm by regional Alberta Agriculture personnel between December 17, 1980 and April 1, 1981. The heifers were on an oat cover crop from mid-October to November 29 when they were put into the feedlot on a straight starter ration.

According to district agriculturist, Allen Toly, who was involved in the trial, the animals were receiving six pounds of oats, half a pound of a 32 per cent supplement with Aureomycin and Rumensin at the starter level plus greenfeed or hay at the time that they were first weighed and implanted on December 16. The implanting was done by technical representatives from the manufacturers of Ralgro and Synovex. The cattle went on full feed, which included Rumesin and MGA on January 1, 1981.

The following table shows the details of the trial.

	Control	Ralgro	Synovex H
Number of animals	75	195	184
Starting weight average	574 lb.	575.8 lb.	575.9 lb.
Ending weight average	835.5 lb.	857.7 lb.	866.2 lb.
Average gain per heifer	262.5 lb.	281.9 lb.	290.3 lb.
Average daily gain	2.51 lb.	2.71 lb.	2.79 lb.
Benefit over controls	-	22.2 lb.	30.7 lb.

As can be seen from the table, the Ralgro heifers gained 8.5 per cent more than the control group, but the Synovex H heifers gained 11.7 per cent more than the control group.

- 30 -

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October 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNITED EFFORTS CAN BEAT EUROPEAN CORNBORER

If you suspect that the corn in your fields or garden might have been damaged by the European cornborer, you are asked to contact your district agriculturist immediately.

Both sweet and field corn are the primary hosts of this very destructive insect, according to Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. The main signs of damage are broken tassels, cobs and stalks and reduced vigor and yields. Dr. Soehngen says yields may be reduced by as much as 40 per cent or more, and that such crops as gladioli, peppers, oats, barley soybeans, etc. may occasionally be seriously damaged by this insect.

Although the European cornborer occurs in many parts of Eastern Canada, in southern Manitoba and in southern Saskatchewan, it has not been found in Alberta since 1957 when a small infestation was discovered and quickly eradicated near Brooks. The previous year a small infestation had been destroyed near Medicine Hat.

This year routine surveys carried out in September in the Medicine Hat area by Agriculture Canada personnel from the research station at Lethbridge brought to light two infestations and subsequent surveys turned up five more in the same area.

Dr. Soehngen says the strain of European cornborer that has been found in Alberta is presumed to produce only one generation of offspring a year, while the strains in both Ontario and Quebec produce two generations. In both cases the adult moths emerge in the spring or early summer and lay their eggs on the undersides of the corn leaves near the midrib. When the larvae hatch they spend a few days feeding on the leaf tissue, and during this period they can be controlled with insecticides. However, control becomes very difficult once

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United Efforts Can Beat European Cornborer (cont'd)

the larvae enter the stalks of the host plant. It is here that they spend their growing period tunnelling, and where they overwinter. As many as 12 larvae may be found in one stalk during a severe infestation.

In commercial corn plantings it is possible to control the European cornborer after the corn has been harvested by shredding the stalks as finely as possible to expose the larvae to the environment and then deep plowing the trash into the ground.

The best way to control the insect in a home garden is to cut the harvested stalks as near to the ground as possible and then to either burn them or bury them under six or more inches of fill and soil in the city or town's garbage dump.

Dr. Soehngen stresses that the European cornborer has been eradicated in Alberta before and that it can be eradicated again through a united effort.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADVANTAGES OF RURAL CRIME WATCH

Do you have a rural crime watch program in your area? It has proved very popular in those areas that do have it.

According to John VanderLeest, who is district agriculturist at Thorhild, and who adopted the program in his area last year, the concept was implemented on a provincial basis about three years ago as a rural neighborhood help yourself program. In other words, it is based on farmers and ranchers watching their neighbors' premises and investigating or reporting any unusual activity to the RCMP. And it came into being as a result of increasing crime and theft in Alberta's farming and ranching communities.

Among its main objectives are:

- To prevent theft and damage to farm and ranch property.
- To reduce the incidence of the illegal use of firearms on farms and ranches which can result in livestock being shot and wilful property damage.
- To reduce the instances of grain theft.
- To inform farmers and ranchers of their obligations to the law, their rights under the law and what they should know about the law as it relates to their way of life.
- To improve, and, in some instances, implement good security practices in the homes, out-buildings, vehicles and machinery of farmers and ranchers.

These things can be achieved through the development of a civilian "range patrol" made up of local farmers and ranchers in co-operation with the RCMP. And, where possible, the RCMP air division is used to carry out patrols over leased and reserve land.

Rural Crime Watch is sponsored by the RCMP, the Western Stock Growers Association, The Alberta Cattlemen's Commission and the Alberta Department of Agriculture. If you are interested in organizing a program in your area, you can obtain information from your district agriculturist.

- 30 -

October 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF MARKETING SEMINAR IN PONOKA

"The Beef Industry — Can It Survive?" is the titled of the annual beef marketing seminar that will be held at the Ponoka community and recreation centre on November 12.

The agenda will include Dr. Michael Walker, head of the Frazer Institute, who will look at the Canadian and American economic situation and the role of agriculture in the Canadian economy.

Charlie Gracey, manager of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, will explain how the cattle industry fits into the total agricultural economy, and discuss what has happened to the beef cycle and whether beef will be able to compete for the consumer dollar.

Jim Dawson of Dawson, Daw and Associates will address "The North-South Disparity — Does It Exist?". He will also report on a study of the question of whether large southern feedlots have a competitive advantage over other feedlots in buying and selling cattle.

Max Roytenburg, author of the Senate Agriculture Committee Report on Alternative Marketing and Stabilization Programs for the Beef Industry, will examine the alternative marketing programs that are outlined in the report.

The final speaker will be Gary Bradshaw, Alberta Agriculture's regional economist in Red Deer. He will examine the various market options that are available to the cow-calf producer, the backgrounder and the feedlot operator.

The registation fee for the seminar is $25 a person or $35 for a husband and wife.

If you would like more information or if you would like to register for "The Beef Industry — Can it Survive" seminar, contact the district extension office in Ponoka, Camrose, Wetaskiwin, Lacombe or Rimbey.

- 30 -

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October 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO 4-H LEADERS OFF TO WASHINGTON

Two prominent 4-H leaders will represent Alberta at the 1981 National 4-H Leaders Forum in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on October 26.

They are Bob Boulton of the Delburne 4-H beef club and Mona Spencer of the Milk River horse club. They are both being sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch.

Marguerite Dykstra, 4-H camping and exchange specialist, says the forum will open with a reception for national 4-H leaders from across Canada and the United States and will continue for six days. The agenda will include such topics as training and re-training 4-H leaders; the roles and responsibilities of leaders; motivating 4-H members and developing leadership in young people. Understanding the legislative process and how it relates to 4-H and a number of other government topics will be discussed by state co-ordinators.

The final two days will be devoted to workshops, field trips and discussions on sharing 4-H ideas and programs.

- 30 -

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October 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINNER OF PREMIER'S AWARD

The 1981 winner of the Premier's Awards is an 18 year-old member of the St. Paul 4-H multi-club in St. Paul.

She is Susan Kotowich, who has held many executive positions including president, vice-president, secretary and club reporter. She was chosen from among 140 senior 4-H members from across the province, and will represent 4-H at a number of functions throughout the coming year.

According to Mahlon Weir, supervisor of 4-H program services, a winner of the Premier's Award is selected on the basis of his or her participation in 4-H activities, scholastic standing and community involvement. Applicants must also write an examination on current events throughout the world.

After completing her grade 12, Susan plans to study education or law at the University of Alberta.

- 30 -

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October 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HALLOWEEN SAFETY AND MASKS

If you have children who will be going out on Halloween to collect some "goodies", here are a few suggestions from the RCMP on safety measures and a recipe for a home-made grease paint that can be used instead of a mask.

First the safety measures. All young children should be accompanied by a responsible person and all children, regardless of age, should be outfitted in reflective clothing so that they can be easily seen in the dark. Patti McGillivrary, district home economist at Thorhild, says that it is a good idea to put flourescent tape on the clothing and "goody" bags of children that are trick and treating on Halloween.

Although drivers are usually cautious on Halloween, the RCMP recommend that you tell young children not to cross roads in a criss-cross pattern as they go from house to house. They should stay on one side of the street until they reach the end of the block, then cross over and work their way home on the other side.

It is also a good idea to find out where your children intend to go and to arrange a time when they should be expected home. And encourage your children not to eat their treats enroute. When they get home check the treats to make sure they are safe and that there is nothing your child could be allergic to.

Now for the home-made Halloween grease paint, which is a good alternative to a halloween mask and is safer.

Blend: 2 tsp. white shortening
5 tsp. cornstarch
1 tsp. white flour

Form a smooth paste.

Add: 3-4 drops of glycerine for a creamy consistency.

Add: Food coloring for all types of eerie effects.

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Halloween Safety And Masks (cont'd)

For a brown mixture:

Combine 1 tsp. white shortening
2½ tsp. unsweetened cocoa

"Apply the paint with a soft paint brush to create eyebrows, creases and worry lines", says Ms. McGillivrary," and be careful to avoid eye areas. These "masks" wash off easily with soap and water, and the formulas are not harmful. However, they should not be eaten because they are uncooked.

If your child must wear a commercially-made mask, make sure that it fits well and that the eye holes are large enough to allow him or her to see at a number of angles.

- 30 -

October 26, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBERFESTS

Every season has its special festivities and one that is celebrated at this time of year is the Octoberfest. It is held in the fall to celebrate the successful completion of the harvest and is very popular among Alberta's German population including the Mennonites.

The following recipe, for a shoo fly pie, submitted by Stettler's district home economist, Kay Dean, and taken from "A College of Canadian Cooking" is a great favorite at Octoberfest feasts.

Pastry for 1 single pie sheli

5 mL (1 tsp.) baking soda
125 mL (½ cup) molasses
250 mL (1 cup) boiling water
1 mL (¼ tsp.) salt
375 mL (1½ cup) all-purpose flour
2 mL (½ tsp.) cinnamon
250 mL (1 cup) lightly packed brown sugar
175 mL (1¼ cup) butter
whipped cream (optional)

Dissolve soda in molasses; stir until frothy; add boiling water and salt. Heat oven to 190 ° C (375 ° F). Blend together flour, cinnamon, sugar, and butter to form crumbly mixture. Pour one-third of liquid into unbaked crust; sprinkle with one-third of crumb mixture. Continue alternating layers, ending with crumbs. Bake in preheated 190° C (375° F) oven for 30 minutes or until crusts and crumbs are golden brown. Let cool, serve with whipped cream.

- 30 -

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AGRI-NEWS

AL/A37/A16/A37/81-11-2

November 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

ADC 1980-81 Annual Report Tabled 1
U.S. Canada Dollar Exchange Rates 3
$115/Tonne Non-Board Barley Prices Predicted 5
A1/A2 Calgary Steer Prices To Return To Mid $70's 6
Alberta Hog Prices Of Around $70 Expected During The Winter 7
Ammoniating Livestock Feed 8
Feeding Cull Cows. 10
4-H Foundation Gets Its Own Brand. 12
Farming For The Future Grants 13
Livestock Seminars 14

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC 1980-81 ANNUAL REPORT TABLED

H.B. McEwen, chairman and managing director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) has announced that ADC's annual report for 1980-81 has been tabled in the Alberta Legislature. It indicates that ADC experienced significant growth in its lending activity during the year compared with 1979-80.

Following is a summary of some of the more significant figures for 1980-81. Comparable figures for 1979-80 are shown in brackets.

Approved direct loans during the year totalled 1,324 and were valued at $183 million (654 and $62 million). Approved Beginning Farmer Loans totalled 1,007 and were valued at $145 million (277 and $29 million). Approved guaranteed loans totalled 5,460 and were valued at $78 million (4,621 and $69 million). Total loans outstanding at the year-end were 25,404 worth $522 million (28,168 and $394 million).

Amendments made to the Beginning Farmer Program furthered the corporation's objective of establishing and maintaining viable family farms. ADC assisted more than 1,000 beginning farmers to get started, and these loans accounted for more than 80 per cent of all direct farm lending during the year.

Mr. McEwen said that according to ADC's calculations, the corporation provided financing assistance to more than 20 per cent of Alberta's farmers. He also indicated that Alberta farmers saved about $16 million in interest charges during 1980-81 through direct and guaranteed loans when ADC's rates were compared with those of conventional lenders. More than $2 million were also paid out in loan incentives to beginning and developing farmers.

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ADC 1980-81 Annual Report Tabled (cont'd)

ADC continued to provide financing assistance to a variety of Alberta agribusinesses during 1980-81, and this activity is expanding significantly.

ADC's source of funding is the sale of debentures to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATERING TREES IN THE FALL RECOMMENDED

Although "Agri-News" carried an article as a point of interest entitled "Fall Watering and Winter Survival of Trees" (October 5) which described some American research that claims that watering trees in the fall is of little if any value, Alberta Agriculture definitely recommends watering trees in the fall.

For further information contact Betty Vladicka, Provincial Tree Nursery, Alberta Agriculture, R.R. No.6, Edmonton, T5B 4K3 (Telephone: 973-3351).

- 30 -

November 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. CANADA DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATES

"The single most important factor influencing the Canadian dollar exchange rate is the performance of capital flows", said Mike Wiggan, vice president and director of Pitfield, MacKay, Ross Co. Ltd in Toronto.

Addressing "Taking Stock", Alberta Agriculture's livestock outlook conference in Calgary, Mr. Wiggan noted that the most recent dollar exchange rate difficulties have been the direct result of unprecedented levels of capital flow. He cited the National Energy Program and apprehensions that the government intends to pursue a more nationalistic and interventionist policy as reasons for the lack of confidence.

He also said that it is difficult to anticipate any substantial improvement in the Canadian dollar exchange rate without some substantial re-orientation of the economic and investment policy in this country. He believes the Canadian dollar will probably remain under pressure for the foreseeable future because of capital outflows and very high foreign debt servicing charges. In fact, he said that there is no guarantee that the exchange rate will remain above 80¢ U.S. over the next year or so.

In Mr. Wiggan's opinion, American interest rates will probably average in the mid-teens during the next year or so with brief "spikes" into the 20 per cent area. These high U.S. interest rates, coupled with wide spreads between Canadian and American interest rates, he says, point to Canadian interest rates averaging in the high teens for the foreseeable future.

According to Mr. Wiggan, bank financing will represent an important growth area because these institutions are particularly well suited to matching assets and liabilities in volatile markets. He also expects equity financing to play an increasingly important role

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U.S. Canada Dollar Exchange Rates (cont'd)

because the demise of the bond market has made equity financing the last, viable, external source of permanent capital for industry.

He pointed out that the advent of European-style inflation in North America is forcing our capital markets into a distinctly European mold. And, in his opinion, the most pragmatic course of action under these circumstances is for business to accept the reality of European-style financial markets and to adjust their operations accordingly. He says the first order of business in this connection will be to establish a solid capitalization base, which will necessitate the ability to rapidly pass cost increases on to buyers.

In essence, Mr. Wiggan does not believe that there is any magic formula that will stop inflation, corner interest rates and firm up the Canadian dollar.

For further information contact David Walker, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

November 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

$115/TONNE NON-BOARD BARLEY PRICES PREDICTED

L.A. Malmberg, private grain forecaster and farmer from Carseland, Alberta, expects Alberta non-board barley prices to average around $2.50 per bushel or about $115 per tonne during the 1981-82 Crop Year.

Speaking at Alberta Agriculture's livestock outlook conference, "Taking Stock", in Calgary, Mr. Malmberg pointed out that a farmer is not likely to sell barley to a feeder at a price that is lower than that which he can get from the Canadian Wheat Board if he has a choice.

Stressing the "if he has a choice", Mr. Malmberg reviewed delivery quota prospects for barley and export prospects on which delivery quotas are based. He suggested that next summer's anticipated Canadian barley carry-over of 4.5 million tonnes, compared with 3 million tonnes this year, will put some pressure on prices, and, hence, he expects non-board prices to average slightly below currently anticipated prices from sales to the wheat board.

For further information contact David Walker, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

November 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A1/A2 CALGARY STEER PRICES TO RETURN TO MID $70'S

Bill Gray, market analyst with the Royal Bank in Winnipeg, expects A1/A2 Calgary steer prices to return to the mid $70's/cwt level by December.

Speaking at Alberta Agriculture's livestock outlook conference, "Taking Stock", in Calgary, Mr. Gray also predicted prices in the $75 to $78/cwt range for the first and second quarters of 1982. He bases these projections on a reduction in slaughter cattle imports and somewhat stronger U.S. prices.

Mr. Gray thinks steer calf prices will improve with the increase in slaughter cattle prices. He said that he expects prices to rise to around $75 to $80/cwt in the new year if the current forecasts for U.S. prices proves accurate.

For further information contact David Walker, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

November 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HOG PRICES OF AROUND $70 EXPECTED DURING THE WINTER

Dr. Larry Martin, agricultural economics professor at the University of Guelph, Ontario, expects Edmonton Index 100 hog prices to be around $70 per hundredweight during the fourth quarter of 1981 and the first quarter of 1982. He bases this projection on U.S. hog price expectations.

Dr. Martin was addressing Alberta Agriculture's livestock outlook conference, called "Taking Stock", in Calgary when he made this prediction. He said that forecasting Canadian production trends is more difficult than forecasting price trends, and that production in Alberta will remain sensitive to the price and availability of feed because there is not a large enough base of specialized production facilities in the province. He also said that he felt that Western hog production will decline by about 5 per cent during the next six to nine months and by 5 to 10 per cent during the second half of 1982.

For further information contact David Walker, Market Analysis Branch
Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

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November 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMMONIATING LIVESTOCK FEED

Anhydrous ammonia can be used to improve the quality of crop residues like straw that are going to be used for livestock feed and to reduce mold and spoilage in hay or greenfeed, according to Jack Kernan who is a senior research scientist with the Saskatchewan Research Council.

Glen Werner, district agriculturist at Stettler, reports that while discussing the ammoniation of straw with a group of Alberta farmers, Mr. Kernan explained that the chemical reaction that takes place improves the digestibility of the straw. The digestibility of wheat straw, for example, can be improved by as much as 10 per cent, which means that less grain supplementation will be required when reasonably good wheat straw is used for the winter ration of beef cows. The protein level is also increased somewhat, but not sufficiently to eliminate the need for some grain supplementation.

Mr. Kernan also pointed out that anhydrous ammonia can be used to preserve feed that would otherwise spoil or mold. If a stack of straw, hay or greenfeed that was put up when damp is enclosed in a gas tight cover and injected with ammonia, the ammonia will stop the molding process and prevent the feed from spoiling until the stack is opened up. Apparently, the heating action is also stopped.

Mr. Kernan stressed that the ammoniation of any type of feed should be done when the temperature is about 20 ° C because warm weather speeds up the process and gives better results. He also said that the feed should have some moisture in it. Twelve per cent seems to be the minimum amount required for straw and a somewhat higher level may be even better.

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Ammoniating Livestock Feed (cont'd)

Mr. Kernan demonstrated the ammoniation of straw by treating approximately 12 tons of stacked round bales with about 120 gallons of anhydrous ammonia. The stack was then covered with 6 mil polyethylene and sealed. The anhydrous ammonia was injected into the stack with a special pipe that was connected to an anhydrous ammonia supply truck.

Because ammoniating straw or other feed can be dangerous, it should only be done by experienced personnel who use the proper safety equipment.

Mr. Werner says anyone who wishes to ammoniate livestock feed should have his feed tested and then contact his livestock specialist or district agriculturist. Both of these people can provide information on preparing the stack, on the amount of ammonia to use and on formulating the new ration.

- 30 -

November 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDING CULL COWS

Does it pay to feed cull cows before shipping them?

Dr. M.R. Price of the University of Alberta's Animal Science Department compared the costs and returns from a group of cows in 1978-79 that had been grain fed for 63 days with the returns from a group that had been sent to slaughter soon after their calves had been weaned. The fed cows received about 30 pounds per day of a ration containing an 85 per cent grain mixture (62% rolled barley, 20% rolled oats, 10% alfalfa pellets, 8% protein and a mineral supplement) and 15 per cent long hay. The average gain of the group was 3.1 pounds per day on 9.6 pounds of feed for each pound of grain. The cows that were less than four years old gained 3.5 pounds per day, while those that were more than five years old gained only 2.6 pounds per day.

An interesting feature of the experiment was that eight out of 10 of the carcasses from the fed cows that were under four years old graded A, while none of the unfed cows made the A grade. The feeding period also increased the liveweight, carcass weight, dressing percentage, depth of fat and rib eye area and improved the color and marbling of the meat.

The average value of the fed cow carcasses at 1979 prices, which were about $49.75 per hundredweight live, was $595.81 or $115.82 more than that of the unfed cows. The largest increase in value, because of the improved grades, was recorded for the cows that were less than four years old. They gained $168.49 in value during their 63 days on feed. Feed in 1979 cost 3.5 ¢ per pound or $77.14 per tonne, and feed costs were only $66.03. Hence, at that time there was a margin of profit to be gained from feeding both the younger and the older cows, even with an additional allowance of 15¢ per day ($9.45 total) for yardage, labor and overhead costs.

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Feeding Cull Cows (cont'd)

Ross Gould, head of Alberta Agriculture's special projects section of the beef cattle and sheep branch, points out that with 1981 feed costs of 5.7¢ per pound ($125.63 per tonne) and 20¢ per day for yardage and overhead, the total feeding cost would come to $107.47 for the feed itself and that there would be an additional $12.60 for keeping the cattle. The total cost today would be $120.07, but the returns on fed cows are about the same as they were in 1979. "These figures", says Mr. Gould, "demonstrate that a decision on whether or not to feed cull cows will depend upon the relationship between fat cow prices and feeding costs and the age of the animals. While it was profitable to feed out all cull cows in 1979, this year it would probably be profitable to feed out only those under four years of age."

- 30 -

November 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H FOUNDATION GETS ITS OWN BRAND

The Alberta 4-H Foundation now has its own brand and its own set of branding irons.

An application for the brand was submitted to the provincial government last year, and the brand, which consists of the number 4, the letter H and a half diamond, has been entered in the Alberta Brand Book in Stettler. The irons were made and presented to the foundation by a long-time rancher and 4-H leader from Manyberries, Floyd Snorthland.

According to Ted Youck, head of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch, the new brand will be used on all livestock that is donated to the 4-H Foundation in Alberta. The first donation was made recently by the Hays Converter Association. It was 600-pound steer and it was turned over to 4-H leader Greg Rockerfellow, who has taken it to his farm near Blackie, where the Gladys 4-H beef club members will raise it as a club project.

All the profits that come from the sale of the steer next spring will go towards the future construction of the provincial 4-H centre at Battle Lake, which is 50 kilometres east of Wetaskiwin.

- 30 -

Alberta
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November 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE GRANTS

The deadline for the submission of applications for grants under Farming for the Future is December 1.

Farming for the Future represents a commitment by the Alberta Government through the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund to support agricultural research that is beneficial to the province.

Financial assistance is available for research studies that have the potential of leading to increased agricultural productivity and improved net farm incomes as well as to the long-term viability of agriculture in Alberta.

Eligible research includes programs that have the potential of meeting these goals and which would be unlikely to be undertaken without support. Their significance to northern agriculture is of major importance as is the competence to carry out and complete the proposed program.

For further information contact:

Agricultural Research Council of Alberta
4th Floor
Agriculture Building
9718-107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2C8

- 30 -

November 2, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK SEMINARS

Alberta Agriculture is sponsoring two livestock seminars in early November.

The first is a dairy seminar which will be held at Olds College in Olds on November 4 and 5. The main topics of this seminar will be reproduction in the dairy herd and milking management. Speakers will include Dr. Lorne Fisher of Agriculture Canada; Steve Spencer of Pennsylvania State University in the U.S.A., Alberta Agriculture personnel; and local farmers and suppliers. The registration fee is $15.

The other seminar will be on animal nutrition and veterinary medicine, and will be held on a number of Thursday evenings, starting November 5, at the Kathryn School in Kathryn, 30 miles northeast of Calgary. It will cover such things as the basics of nutritional and balanced feeding of animals, the principles of first aid for sick animals and management of calving. It will also include a summary of cattle diseases. The registration fee for the series is only $6.

Alberta Agriculture's annual beef marketing seminar will be held in Ponoka on November 12. It has proved very popular in the past, and is expected to be equally popular this year. Also, a special effort is being made to encourage wives to attend with their husbands because, being an integral part of the farm decision-making process, they are affected by beef markets just as much as their husbands.

For further information contact, Ernest Smith, District Agriculturist, Box 1170, Airdrie, Alberta, TOM OBO. (Telephone:948-5152).

- 30 -

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AGRI-NEWS

AC/A37/A16/A37/81-11-9

November 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

ADC First Half Lending Results 1

Exciting New Technological Challenges And Developments 3

U.S. Cattle Outlook 5

U.S. Hog Outlook 7

Offshore Meat Outlook And Its Implications For Canada 9

Alberta Honey Situation 10

Energy Seminar For East-Central Alberta 12

Combatting The Green Fuzzies 13

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC FIRST HALF LENDING RESULTS

H.B. McEwen, chairman and managing director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), has announced the corporation's lending results for the six month period ending September 30, 1981.

During this period the corporation approved 833 direct farm loans totalling $122 million compared with 595 loans totalling $79.5 million during the same period in 1980. Of these 833 direct farm loans, 727, representing $110 million, were made to beginning farmers. The figures for the same period in 1980 were 434 loans and $62 million.

Nineteen direct agribusiness loans, representing $5.4 million were also made during the first half of the current fiscal year compared with 5 loans and $0.5 million during the same period last year.

The number of Alberta Farm Development Loans guaranteed by ADC from April to the end of September of this year was 2,702, valued at $36.5 million, compared with 2,954, valued at $36 million, during the same period in 1980.

A total of 32 specific guaranteed loans to farmers and agribusinesses, valued at $12.7 million, were approved by ADC during the first six months of the current fiscal year compared with 26 loans, valued at 2.6 million, during the same period last year.

Mr. McEwen said that, based on ADC's lending activity during the first half of the current fiscal year, 1981-82 will be another record year for the corporation, and that agri-business lending is expanding at a particularly rapid rate. He also indicated that after two favorable crop years, many farmers are paying off loans from conventional lenders that were

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ADC First Half Lending Results (cont'd)

guaranteed by ADC. These loans involve interest costs which reflect the record high prime interest rates that have been in effect during 1981.

The significant growth in ADC's lending operations has necessitated increasing the staff in the corporation's field offices and at the Camrose head office. And systems and procedures are being streamlined to improve the time required to process and approve loan applications.

- 30 -

November 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCITING NEW TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

In reviewing long-term developments in the supply and demand factors of the meat sector, Dr. Ewen Wilson of the American Meat Institute, said that coming technological challenges and developments will be at least as exciting as they have been in the past four decades even though we may see slower growth rates. He made this statement at "Taking Stock", a livestock outlook conference in Calgary that was sponsored by Alberta Agriculture.

"For the first time in several decades the U.S. is moving in a new direction and the political environment provides a real opportunity to tackle the root causes of inflation, excessive government spending and expansionary monetary policies to accommodate budget deficits". Dr. Wilson said. However, as a result of this policy, he anticipates slower economic growth ahead and high interest rates and a high level of unemployment to continue to be facts of life.

In a world of limited land, water and energy, he feels grain production will be the key to an expansion of the meat industry. Without feed grains it simply would not be possible to sustain today's high level of output from our intensive livestock and poultry enterprises, he said.

Dr. Wilson does not subscribe to the view that we have reached a plateau in technological development. He cited nitrogen fixation in non-leguminous plants, improved photosynthesis in crops and new approaches to plant genetics as promising areas of research to increase feed grain output.

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Exciting New Technological Challenges And Developments (cont'd)

He believes the meat packing industry is going to have to cope with the more volatile economic environment that has overtaken it during the 1970's. He said we are looking at increasingly specialized operations at the slaughter and meat processing levels in the United States, and he expects that the trend to boxed beef will be followed by one of consumer-ready packages at central locations. The sectioning and forming of meats will mean that acceptable and flavorful low value cuts can be offered to the consumer.

For further information contact David Walker, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

November 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. CATTLE OUTLOOK

As every farmer knows, the American cattle market has a strong influence on the Canadian cattle market because we really have a North American market.

So what is the situation in the American market? Dr. Glenn Grimes, professor of agricultural economics at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, U.S.A., who was one of the guest speakers at Alberta Agriculture's livestock outlook conference, "Taking Stock", told participants that he expects choice fed slaughter steer prices at Omaha to average in the upper $60 US per hundredweight range for the last quarter of this year. He also said that they might go as high as $70 US per hundredweight during part of this period.

Dr. Grimes suggested that if the demand holds near what it was in the first half of 1981, choice steers can be expected to average in the upper $60 US range at Omaha for the first six months of 1982. He bases the above predictions on the expectation that fed cattle marketings will be down 3.5 per cent from a year ago during the last quarter of 1981 and that non-grain fed steer and heifer slaughter and cow slaughter will remain the same to slightly higher than they were during same period in 1980.

In the long term, Dr. Grimes said he is confident that the increase in U.S. cattle numbers in the current expansion period of the cattle cycle will be less than the approximately 25 per cent increase that took place during each of the past five cycles. He bases this prediction on the feed grain, forage supply and demand situations for beef in the United States.

"The supply and price for feed grain is a major factor in determining the rate of herd change", he said. "With the very large demand that has developed in the last few years for feed grain, one relatively short crop in the United States or in the remainder of the world could push prices up substantially as happened in 1980. And such an increase in the next two or three years could contribute to a shorter cycle."

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U.S. Cattle Outlook (cont'd)

In Dr. Grimes opinion, the cattle expansion that took place in the 1960's and early 1970's, despite modest feeder cattle prices, resulted from the U.S. government's grain crop acreage diversion programs. He pointed out that in light of the present requirement of five million more acres annually for American grain exports, less forage acreage will be available for the cow herd.

Dr. Grimes said that the demand for beef in the United States, relative to incomes, has slipped substantially during the past few years. He mentioned inflation, substantial increases in fuel costs, vegetarianism, diet fads, acceptance of meat substitutes, moralistic opposition to the slaughter of animals, health concerns and strong competition from poultry and pork as causes.

However, he does not believe that the demand for beef has deteriorated to the point where one should push the panic button, but he did stress that this is not the time for an aggressive expansion of the American cattle herd.

For further information contact David Walker, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

November 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. HOG OUTLOOK

Canadian hog producers have enjoyed price support from a reduced hog slaughter in the United States during most of 1981. However, American hog slaughter numbers have now returned to year-ago levels with the result that Canadian prices are following the decline in U.S. prices.

Dr. Glenn Grimes, professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, U.S.A. told the audience at Alberta Agriculture's livestock outlook conference, "Taking Stock", that he expects barrow and gilt prices in the five major American markets to average in the upper $40 US to the low $50 US per hundredweight live level during the next six months. He bases this prediction on the U.S. September Hog and Pig Report which indicates that pork production in that country is levelling out and that the demand will hold at its current level.

Dr. Grimes believes there is a good possibility that there may be some growth in the American hog breeding herd in view of a potential record corn crop and substantially lower corn prices this fall and winter. However, high interest rates will probably be a retarding factor in this growth.

In the longer term, Dr. Grimes thinks that major structural changes are occurring in the American hog industry. When relating preliminary findings of the University of Missouri studies, he suggested that a trend is emerging whereby more and more hogs will be produced

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U.S. Hog Outlook (cont'd)

by large corporations with specialized production units. Because the units have high fixed costs, seasonal production is discouraged. Dr. Grimes suggested that the structural changes in the American hog industry may also mean a decrease in the importance of terminal, auction and local markets as more direct packer sales are made. This will be accompanied by an increasing proportion of prices being based on carcass grade and weight and by a decline in the percentage of prices that are available for public news reports in the U.S.

For further information contact David Walker, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

November 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFSHORE MEAT OUTLOOK AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADA

Joe MacDonald of the international meat trading company, Thomas Borthwick and Sons of Toronto, expects beef exports from Australia and New Zealand to decline by approximately 5 per cent in 1982 and Canadian imports of offshore frozen boneless beef to be in the order of 40,000 tonnes. This would be the same as they were in 1981.

Mr. MacDonald was speaking at "Taking Stock", Alberta Agriculture's livestock outlook conference that was held recently in Calgary. He said that the recent disastrous 18-month drought had a very serious effect on the livestock industry in the Australian state of New South Wales. Although cattle numbers are slowly recovering following the liquidation that took place during the drought, the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation forecasts that about 483,000 tonnes of boneless equivalent of beef will be available for export in 1982 compared with about 460,000 tonnes anticipated for 1981.

New Zealand's exports of beef have been remarkably steady in recent years, but that country is forecasting a 6.7 per cent decline in its exports for 1982 compared with its anticipated exports of about 223,000 tonnes for 1981.

For further information contact David Walker, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

November 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HONEY SITUATION

Canadian and American honey production and projected demand levels suggest that Alberta beekeepers will see record prices for their honey during the current crop year.

Bob Prather, special commodities analyst with Alberta Agriculture, says Alberta producer prices for bulk honey are expected to range from $1.37 to $1.43 per kg over the next nine months, and that there is some future upward potential. Prices averaged around $1.26 per kg during the 1980-81 crop year.

According to Mr. Prather, demand from both domestic and export buyers over the past year were sufficient to reduce packer carryover stock levels to a minimum going into the 1981-82 crop year. Only a slight increase in the 1981 Canadian honey crop, compared with the 1980 crop, and very favorable opportunities for sales in the United States during the coming year have put considerable upward pressure on Alberta producer prices.

This year's Alberta honey crop is projected to be just under 9 million kg or 27 per cent of the total estimated 1981 Canadian crop. In recent years Alberta's beekeepers have supplied 30 to 35 per cent of Canada's total honey production, but inconsistent weather and a drought in the Peace River region significantly reduced the availability of nectar this year. There was also about a 30 per cent reduction in the clover and canola acreage and a heavy clover winterkill. As a result of these factors, the average honey yield for the province has been estimated at 52.6 kg per colony compared with 64.4 in 1980 and the 10-year average of 63 kg per colony.

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Alberta Honey Situation (cont'd)

U.S. Situation and Outlook

The 1981 American honey crop is now forecast to be only 79 to 84 million kg compared with earlier estimates of up to 91 million kg and 90.7 million kg recorded in 1980. Hence, U.S. imports in 1981 are expected to reach a record level of from 32 to 34 million kg, and they will almost certainly be higher than normal in the first six months of 1982. Canadian exports to the U.S. for the present crop year should exceed last year's 6 million kg, and Mr. Prather thinks they may set new records from the point of view of both volume and price.

He says that developments in Argentina, Canada's main competitor in the United States, will bear watching. He also says that the appreciation of the Canadian dollar against most European currencies and heavy competition from Argentina, Mexico and China are expected to limit Canadian honey sales to the European Economic Community. However, the United States offers a potential sales volume for Canada during the current crop year that would more than offset any further decrease in European buying.

For further information contact Bob Prather, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

November 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY SEMINAR FOR EAST-CENTRAL ALBERTA

An energy conservation and solar design seminar, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, will be held for residents of east-central Alberta in Castor on November 18.

The seminar has been especially designed for homeowners who are interested in energy conservation building methods and design techniques, but building contractors and carpenters are also invited to attend.

The seminar will run from 9.30 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. in the Castor community hall and the registration fee is $7 per person or $10 per couple. Lunch is included.

Information about the specific topics that will be covered in the seminar can be obtained from Kay Dean, Bag 600, Provincial Building, Stettler, Alberta, TOC 2LO (Telephone:742-4481).

- 30 -

Alberta
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November 9, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMBATTING THE GREEN FUZZIES

by Catherine Sinnott
Alberta Agriculture's Home Economics Laboratory

We have all had the experience of opening the refrigerator to find little green "fuzzies" growing on some of our favorite foods. Until about 20 years ago, moulds, as they are more properly called, were considered to be somewhat unpleasant but relatively harmless. In the last 20 years, however, research has shown that some moulds may be more harmful than had originally been thought.

Moulds are fungi which are capable of growing in a wide variety of environments. Although they can produce substances which are beneficial to man, as in the production of cheese and penicillin, they can also cause the spoilage of food, clothing and leather, and extensive crop losses in the form of blights and rusts. And they can represent a health hazard to both animals and human beings by producing substances called mycotoxins. These are poisonous chemical compounds produced by some species of mould under certain temperature, moisture and storage conditions. Aflatoxin is the mycotoxin that has received the most attention in recent years.

Until more information is available about mycotoxins, it is best to consider any foods that display spoilage moulds as potentially dangerous. If mould appears on a solid food like cheese, cut off the mouldy portion to a depth of one inch. If the mould is growing on a liquid or semi-solid food such as jam or syrup, discard the whole thing.

When shopping, you can avoid potential mould problems by not purchasing produce that is bruised, cut or showing signs of spoilage. Check to see that packages are intact

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Combatting The Green Fuzzies (cont'd)

and that the food has not already been exposed to the air.

In the home follow the storage recommendations for each food item, and avoid cross-contamination of food by discarding wrappings or containers that previously held mouldy food. When working with several food products, wash and dry utensils before going on to the next one. Also avoid exposing food to air for a longer period than is necessary.

By following these few precautions, you can control waste that results from spoilage caused by mould.

- 30 -

AGRI·NEWS

AL/A32/A16/A32/81-11-16

November 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Farm Cash Receipts, Expenses And Net Income 1

Feed Grain Outlook 2

Canadian Wheat Outlook. 4

Farm Tax And Livestock Inventory Provision. 5

Farmers Urged to Check Grain Bins 8

Continuous Cropping Or Summerfallow Seminar 9

Horticulture Therapy Symposium. 11

Tots And Telephones 12

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November 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM CASH RECEIPTS, EXPENSES AND NET INCOME

Total farm cash receipts that Alberta farmers and ranchers will receive during 1981 are projected to be $3,757 million, an increase of 20 per cent over 1980.

Chuck Sterling, head of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch reports that continued strength in the grain sector, resulting from a record grain movement and higher prices of wheat, oats and barley, have pushed crop receipts to over $2 billion. However, the livestock sector in general, and cattle and calves in particular, have not enjoyed a particularly good year. Farm cash receipts from livestock for 1981 are projected to remain at a level similar to that of the previous two years. Cash receipts from cattle and calves are projected to be $1,129 for 1981, which is down $58 million from 1980.

Mr. Sterling says total operating expenses and depreciation charges of $2.96 billion for 1981 are 18 per cent higher than they were in 1980. This increase is the result of Alberta farmers and ranchers having spent a record amount on current operating expenses and to cover capital purchases made during and prior to 1981.

Realized net income in 1981 is projected to be $835 million, compared with $662 million in 1980. Although this represents a 25 per cent increase, it does not, of course, apply to all producers nor to all segments of Alberta's agricultural economy.

- 30 -

Alberta
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November 16 , 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEED GRAIN OUTLOOK

"We expect Canadian non-board elevator barley prices to remain at their present level of $100 to $105 per tonne until about January, and to have improved by $10 to $15 per tonne by next spring", says Les Lyster of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch.

However, he pointed out that prices between now and next spring will be influenced by the volume of barley that is exported and its subsequent impact on the size and timing of Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) quotas, the size of the final payment received in January and the performance of the U.S. corn market.

The CWB's initial payment, basis country elevators at Edmonton and Calgary, is approximately $111 per tonne, and non-board prices at country elevators and feedlots are currently about $5 to $10 per tonne below the CWB initial payment.

Alberta's 1981 barley crop is estimated to be a record 6.5 million tonnes or 9.5 per cent above last year's crop. Although the 1981 average yield at 48 bushels per acre was good by historical standards, it was 2.7 bushels below the record 1980 average yield. The decrease from 1980 was due to drought conditions in northeastern Alberta and the Peace River region and to hot, windy weather throughout the province during August.

Mr. Lyster reports that the 1981-82 barley supply is 2.2 million tonnes above the average for the last five years, and that domestic consumption of barley during the same period is expected to be similar to that of the past year.

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Feed Grain Outlook (cont'd)

Barley exports from the beginning of the present crop year until the week which ended on October 14, were 1.26 million tonnes. This averages out to 114,000 tonnes per week, but this level of performance is not expected to be maintained throughout the crop year. However, Mr. Lyster expects barley exports, including barley products, to be around 5 million tonnes by the end of the 1981-82 crop year, which is well above the 3.6 million tonnes that were exported during the last crop year.

Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after November 30, 1981 is requested to consult Mr. Les Lyster.

- 30 -

November 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN WHEAT OUTLOOK

Canadian wheat prices are expected to increase from their present levels by about $20 per tonne between now and March 1982.

Current Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) asking prices for No.1CWRS at Vancouver are in the $240 per tonne range, and U.S. DNS 13.5 per cent at Portland traded in the Cdn $220 per tonne range during the third quarter of 1981.

Les Lyster, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, reports that Canadian farmers produced a record 24.36 million tonnes of wheat this year, which represents a 27 per cent increase compared with last year. Alberta's 1981 wheat crop is estimated to be a record 5.93 million tonnes, representing an 11 per cent increase compared with 1980.

According to Mr. Lyster, total Canadian wheat supplies for this present crop year are estimated to be 32.67 million tonnes or 2.8 million tonnes above what they were in the 1980-81 crop year. The July 31, 1982 carryover is expected to be approximately 10.3 million tonnes or 2 million tonnes above the July 1981 level.

The United States Department of Agriculture's October estimate places 1981-82 world wheat production at a record 447.5 million tonnes, which is about 9 million tonnes above what it was in 1980-81. However, according to Mr. Lyster this estimate is expected to be adjusted downward because of revisions to the Soviet crop estimate and declining wheat crop prospects in the southern hemisphere.

Because of the changing nature of factors effecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after November 30, 1981 is requested to consult Mr. Les Lyster.

-30-

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November 16, 1981

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FARM TAX AND LIVESTOCK INVENTORY PROVISION

Did you know that such things as poultry, fur-bearing animals and bees qualify for the federal government's livestock inventory provision (LIP)?

This provision, which came into effect in 1972, allows livestock producers who report their income on a cash basis to include any amount of income, up to the fair market value of the livestock they own at the end of the year (excluding a basic herd), in their income for that year. Since the amount added to the income in one year must be recorded as an expense the following year, the transaction is basically a paper one. Although cattle, horses, sheep and swine are traditionally associated with the word "livestock", Revenue Canada considers livestock to include any animal that is maintained and bred under controlled conditions for profit.

The following questions and answers compiled by Merle Good of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch illustrate when and how to use LIP.

Q.(a) I have not claimed any capital cost allowance (depreciation) or applied the business investment tax credit for the past two years. In this way I have managed to generate enough income to claim my personal exemptions. Could I have used LIP in this situation?

A. Yes. By adding artificial income through LIP, your income level could have been sufficiently increased to enable you to claim the maximum capital cost allowance and to apply your tax credits.

Q.(b) How does this work?

A. Assume that you have $50,000 worth of undepreciable capital cost allowance in the Class 10 depreciation schedule. If you do not use LIP, your maximum depreciation claim for the current year will be only $15,000 ($50,000 x 30%). However,

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Farm Tax And Livestock Inventory Provision (cont'd)

if you have claimed depreciation for the last two years and have claimed it for the current year, you will have to add $32,850 of income through LIP to offset your capital cost allowances. Then, if year three is a profitable year, you can deduct $32,850 from your income instead of only $15,000 as would have been the case if you had not used LIP.

Here is the calculation — Undepreciable Capital Cost x Rate = Amount Claimable.

Year One	$50,000	x	30%	=	$15,000
Year Two	$35,000	x	30%	=	$10,500
Year Three	$24,500	x	30%	=	$ 7,350
					$32,850

Q. I am approaching retirement and have not been able to contribute the maximum amount of income to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). My accountant informs me that in my situation the long-term benefits under that program exceed the short-term cost of paying slightly more income tax. What method could I use to achieve this objective?

A. You could increase your income to the point where you would be eligible to make the maximum contribution under CPP by using LIP. Furthermore, the buildup of your livestock inventory value would help to offset the income you would receive if you decided to sell any of your assets when you retired.

Q. I have been increasing my cattle herd over the past six years and my records show a cash loss each year. However, this year I made $15,000, and my accountant tells me that the loss which I incurred six years ago cannot be applied against this year's net income. Is this true?

A. Yes. Operating losses on a farm must be deducted from the previous year's income. Any loss over and above this can then be applied against the earliest available income of a subsequent year. However, that subsequent year must not be

- (cont'd) -

Farm Tax And Livestock Inventory Provision (cont'd)

more than five years after the year in which the loss was sustained.

A new publication entitled "Farm Tax and the Livestock Inventory Provision" discusses LIP in considerable detail and covers such topics as the use of LIP by hobby farmers and corporations as well as those who use the five-year block average.

Copies of "Farm Tax and the Livestock Inventory Provision" (Agdex 837-9) can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

November 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMERS URGED TO CHECK GRAIN BINS

Alberta farmers are urged to check their stored grain for heating and insect infestations every few weeks between now and January.

The very warm harvesting weather and the fact that harvesting was completed in early September means that the temperature of most of the grain that went into storage on Alberta farms last fall was high. And a high temperature plus grain with a moisture content of above 15 per cent creates ideal conditions for the development of insects.

Alberta Agriculture's pest control specialist and entomologist, Michael Dolinski, recommends that farmers take samples from the surface of their grain every two weeks from now until the beginning of January to ensure that insect infestations do not get a chance to develop. They usually start near the floor of the granary and gradually work their way towards the surface of the grain. Mr. Dolinski also asks farmers to take samples as they load their grain for shipment and to return it to the bin for fumigation if they find insects. He says the Canadian Grain Commission is very concerned about the amount of farm stored grain containing insect infestations that is being delivered to elevators in the three Prairie provinces.

To detect heating in grain measure the temperature with a thermometer at least one metre below the surface. If you do not have a thermometer, insert a metal rod into the centre of the grain and withdraw it after 10 to 15 minutes. If the rod feels warm when put against your wrist, the grain is heating. It should be cooled if the temperature is above 20 °C, and it should be fumigated if there are insects present. However, it is important to have the insects accurately identified before fumigating.

- 30 -

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November 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTINUOUS CROPPING OR SUMMERFALLOW SEMINAR

Are skyrocketing crop input costs giving summerfallow another chance? Is it time to cut back on fertilizer rates? What about the new tillage implements, air seeders and the like?

In an attempt to answer these and other questions, Alberta Agriculture's extension offices at Vegreville, Lamont, Ryley and Two Hills are sponsoring an all-day seminar called "Continuous Cropping or Summerfallow" at the recreation centre in Lamont on December 1.

Following is a list of topics and speakers:

. "It's Not Dirt – It's Soil" by Dr. Les Henry of the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Henry is a regular contributor to "Grainnews" on soil related items.

. "Cropping for Profit" by Ellis Treffry, Alberta Agriculture's regional plant industry supervisor at Vermilion. Mr. Treffry, who has a considerable amount of experience in the northeast region of central Alberta, will discuss the value of growing new crop varieties in proper rotations and the utilization of special crops.

. "Wheel and Steel" by Murray Green, farm machinery specialist with Alberta Agriculture at Airdrie. He will talk about the advances in tillage and seeding equipment and how they affect cropping decisions.

. "Dollars and Sense of Cropping" by Gary Bradshaw, Alberta Agriculture's regional farm economist at Red Deer. Mr. Bradshaw will try to draw some conslusions on this topic by looking at the costs and returns of various cropping systems over a number of years.

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Continuous Cropping or Summerfallow Seminar (cont'd)

There will also be a producer panel made up of a number of local farmers who will outline their own cropping systems and explain why they think their particular system is right for them. The producer panel will be followed by a question and answer period.

If you are interested in this seminar, which starts at 9.30 a.m., please send $6 (includes lunch) to Alberta Agriculture, Box 519 Vegreville, Alberta, TOB 4LO or telephone your district agriculturist in Vegreville, Lamont, Two Hills or Ryley. Cheques should be made payable to the County of Lamont Agricultural Service Board.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORTICULTURE THERAPY SYMPOSIUM

The Alberta Horticultural Association and Alberta Agriculture will sponsor a "Horticulture as Therapy Symposium" at ACT Recreation Centre for the Disabled in Edmonton on November 26 and 27.

The objective of the symposium is to create an awareness of the value of gardening and nature-related activities as a therapeutic technique. This type of therapy is already being used in vocational training programs for the disabled and in nursing homes, auxiliary hospitals, convalescent centres, correctional institutions and psychiatric facilities in many parts of Canada and the United States. Its aim is to improve the physical capabilities, motivation and social interaction of participants and to provide them with a sense of independence.

Lynn Dennis of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario, will be the symposium's main speaker. Mr. Dennis has been interested in horticultural therapy for many years and is presently involved in such programs at the botanic gardens. Other speakers will discuss programs that are being started in Alberta and outline the province's horticultural resources for this purpose.

Preregistration is required because the number of participants is limited to 40. The registration fee is $30, and it covers two luncheons and coffee breaks.

If you would like more information on the "Horticulture as Therapy Symposium", you should contact Betty Vladicka, Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3 (Telephone: 973 - 3351).

- 30 -

Alberta
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Communications Division

November 16, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOTS AND TELEPHONES

by Nadine Vester
Family Living Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Emily Post has a whole chapter on "Courtesy on the Telephone". Given the amount of time Canadians spend on the telephone, it is only reasonable to treat this subject as extensively as she did.

She is adamant that "hello" is the correct way of answering a telephone at home and equates "this is the Jones' residence" as the equivalent of peering through shutters as opposed to throwing the door wide open. She implies that the prudent "hello" makes it easier to rid oneself of an undesirable caller. In this more populous and violent age, her advice is applicable.

Emily Post advises, for the sake of the caller, that one should not allow a "too young" child to answer the telephone. When is a child too young? If this sounds like your house, the child is too young:

> "Hello, can I speak to your mummy? ... No, I don't want to talk to Dolly, go get mummy ... Hello, Dolly ... Yes, Dolly is nice ... No, I don't want to listen to her sing, please get mummy ... That song Dolly sang had nasty words in it ... No, I won't tell you which ones, please put the phone down and call mummy ... Don't scream! ... Hello, mummy, I mean Linda. What! What! I can't hear you, my head's ringing."

Children do need to learn how to use the telephone. Fortunately, there are some realistic and sturdy toy phones on the market on which the child can practise. You can start teaching him when he first shows an interest by having "pretend" conversations with him as he is trying out roles:

> "Hello, mummy, this is daddy phoning from the office."
> "Hello, daddy, how are things going?"
> "Fine but I am really busy, Joe just got mad and quit. I will be working late. What's for supper?"
> "Your favorite, macaroni and cheese."
> "I guess I'll come home early."

- (cont'd)

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Tots and Telephones (cont'd)

You can have him practise answering the toy phone:

Ring! Ring!

"Hello, to whom do you wish to speak?" or whatever is appropriate. Then, when the child seems capable, you can progress to asking a friend to call at a certain time so that the child can answer and practise his new skill in a real situation.

If the child cannot write yet and you have a few friends who call regularly, you might have him take a message by providing a magnet board and a small number of different decorative magnets to put up to show who called. For example, the Jones family symbol could be a daisy; the Brown's, a ladybug; the Green's, a frying pan --- or whatever you like. If this seems too elaborate, you might simply teach the child to draw a certain symbol for each caller on paper.

Your child will be so proud when he can take messages, and you will have moved him along another step to effective communication.

- 30 -

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AGRI-NEWS

AL/A37/A14/A37/81-11-23

November 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Nutritive Processing Projects Announced For Southern Alberta 1
Cattle And Hog Outlook 3
Oilseed Outlook 5
Reporting Unusual Farm Income For Tax Purposes 7
Financial Assistance Available To Alberta Farmers 8
Eleventh Member Inducted Into 4-H Hall Of Fame 9
Alberta Agriculture Television Specials 11
Beating The High Cost Of Christmas 12
Assistant Director Of Extension Appointed 14

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

November 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUTRITIVE PROCESSING PROJECTS ANNOUNCED FOR SOUTHERN ALBERTA

Six projects in southern Alberta, ranging from the manufacturing of cheese to the production of pharmaceuticals, are to receive funding totalling $288,413 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement. They are expected to generate an estimated $1.6 million in investment.

The Central Alberta Dairy Pool will receive $104,550 to expand and modernize its cheese manufacturing plant at Glenwood. The project, estimated to cost $697,000, will involve building renovations and an expansion of the cooling and storage facilities as well as the installation of new equipment. The production capacity of the plant will be doubled when the project has been completed, and three new jobs are expected to be created.

Fort Macleod Meat Processors Ltd of Fort Macleod will receive $102,800 to expand and modernize its abattoir. The kill floor will be expanded and a new hide room, hog carcass cooler and a cooled loading and shipping dock are to be added. The cooler will be able to hold 300 carcasses which will enable the company to ship pork to the California market. The project is expected to cost $514,000 and to create nine new jobs.

Red Crow Development Ltd will receive $33,327 to build a facility for washing, grading and packaging potatoes on the Blood Indian Reserve at Stand Off. The plant, estimated to cost $208,000, will process approximately 200 tons of potatoes every month during the winter, and the potatoes will be grown by Mataki Farms, a division of Red Crow Developments. The project is expected to create eight jobs.

Medivet Pharmaceuticals of High River will receive $24,887 to help it to become established. It will manufacture, package and label a wide range of veterinary products including drugs and medicated supplements for both therapeutic and preventive purposes. The total

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cost of the project is estimated to be $83,000 and 17 jobs are expected to be created.

The proprietor of Country Loaf Bakery in Picture Butte will receive $12,769 to construct a bakery, which is estimated to cost $63,000. It is expected to create three jobs.

Lakeview Bakery, Lethbridge (1979) will receive $10,080 to carry out a 1,050 square foot expansion of its bakery in north Lethbridge and to install a new oven conveyor. The estimated cost of the proejct is $63,000.

Assistance for the above projects was announced by Senator H.A. Olson, federal minister of state for Economic Development and Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture. The assistance is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

November 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE AND HOG OUTLOOK

Feeder calf prices for 500-600-pound steer calves at Edmonton are expected to continue in the $73 to $75 range during the winter feeding period.

Carolyn Scott, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, suggests that during the same period steer calves across Alberta will sell in the mid-$70 per hundredweight range, with some going for around $80 per hundredweight. Heifer calves will be at an 8 to 10 per pound discount.

With calves no longer commanding a price premium over fat and heavy feeders, there may not be the incentive to sell calves this fall, but rather to background them to heavier weights, Ms. Scott says. However, this will depend upon the cash flow position of producers and the additional revenue that would be generated by placing the money from calf sales in the bank.

A1 and A2 slaughter steers at Calgary are expected to average approximately $73 to $75 per hundredweight over the fourth quarter of this year. And they may bring $75 to $77 per hundredweight in the latter part of November and into December.

Looking ahead to the first quarter of 1982, Ms. Scott believes cattle prices will average around $74 per hundredweight and move slightly higher in the second quarter.

She expects Alberta's slaughter in the fourth quarter of this year to be approximately 800,000 head, which would be 2 to 4 per cent above the fourth quarter in 1980. Canadian cattle slaughter for 1981 is likely to be 5 per cent above what it was in 1980.

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Cattle And Hog Outlook (cont'd)

Hogs

Alberta hog prices during November may be in the $69 to $71 per hundredweight dressed range, says Ms. Scott, and they could strengthen during December to $70 to $73 per hundredweight dressed.

While Canada and Alberta enjoyed relatively better hog prices in July, August and September, compared with earlier in the year, and compared to the same time last year, the American market, according to Ms. Scott, is no longer in a position to bolster our prices above what they were a year ago. She also says that Canadian slaughter is down only 1.2 per cent from what it was last year.

Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after November 30, 1981, is requested to consult Carolyn Scott.

- 30 -

November 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OILSEED OUTLOOK

Canadian rapeseed/canola prices are expected to decline by $10 to $15 per tonne during the remaining quarter of the present crop year to make them more competitive with soybean prices.

Les Lyster, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, believes country elevator prices will range between $260 and $275 per tonne until January when they are expected to slowly improve in response to stronger world oilseed demand and basis narrowing (future's price minus country elevator price).

The 1981 Canadian rapeseed/canola crop is estimated at 1.781 million tonnes, which is 28 per cent below that of 1980, and Alberta's crop is estimated to be 737,000 tonnes, which is 35 per cent below that of 1980.

The total supply of Canadian rapeseed/canola for the 1981-82 crop year is estimated to be 3.1 million tonnes or 22 per cent below the 1980-81 level. The volume of exports and the domestic crush is expected to be similar to that of the past year, and carryover stocks on July 31, 1982, should be around 450,000 tonnes or considerably below the 1981 level.

Flaxseed

Mr. Lyster says that tight flaxseed supplies in Canada, the United States and Argentina should result in stronger prices this winter than is expected for other oilseeds.

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Oilseed Outlook (cont'd)

This year's Canadian flaxseed crop is estimated to be 485,000 tonnes, which is marginally above the 1980 crop. Alberta's flaxseed production was 53,000 tonnes this year or 36 per cent below the 1980 level.

The total 1981-82 Canadian flaxseed supply is estimated to be 829,000 tonnes, which is 21 per cent below the 1980-81 level and the lowest it has been since the 1976-77 crop year. Carryover stocks on July 31, 1982, are expected to be 175,000 tonnes which would be the lowest they have been in 12 years.

Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after November 30, 1981 is requested to consult Les Lyster.

- 30 -

November 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REPORTING UNUSUAL FARM INCOME FOR TAX PURPOSES

A new Alberta Agriculture publication entitled "Reporting Unusual Farm Income For Tax Purposes" contains a brief explanation on how to report income received from transactions outside the normal course of the farm business.

Topics covered include income from the sale of farmland and the crop; patronage dividends; government assistance (gasoline tax rebates; destruction of livestock; PFRA water development projects); insurance proceeds (life insurance, fire, casualty and theft); oil or gas exploration; part dispositions (property that is expropriated for use as a right-of-way constitutes a part disposition); and a farm woodlot or tree farm.

Under the heading "Farm Woodlots and Tree Farms", the publication says that where the proceeds a farmer gets from selling logs, lumber, poles, firewood or Christmas trees are minor in relation to his farming operation, they are considered income from farming. Under these circumstances, the cost of replanting trees is deductible from the farm income.

However, when a lump sum or payment on a stumpage basis is paid to remove standing timber from the farm, the payment is normally considered to be capital. In this case the adjusted cost base of the land would be reduced by an amount equal to the proceeds received from the sale.

Copies of "Reporting Unusual Income For Tax Purposes" (Agdex 837-10) can be obtained from district agriculturists, or from the Print Media Branch, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO ALBERTA FARMERS

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch has released a revised edition of the publication entitled "Assistance Available to Alberta Farmers" to help farmers to keep abreast to financial assistance opportunities that are available to them through the provincial and federal governments.

Nancy Nicholson, research assistant with the farm management branch, says the publication outlines the terms and eligibility requirements for almost 40 financial assistance programs, which range from agricultural service board grants to energy cost support programs to crop and livestock assistance programs. She points out that it contains 10 new assistance programs, several of which are contained in the section on energy.

As a result of the recent energy crunch, a number of energy use and conservation programs have been unveiled by both federal and provincial governments. For example, farmers who are not in a serviced natural gas franchise area, and who are using propane or heating oil, are eligible for assistance with their insulation costs through the Canadian Home Insulation Program.

Another program pertains to livestock exhibitors. Under it they can claim new rates of assistance for show animals in certain shows. Still others pertain to apiculture and dairy operations, hogs, horses, poultry and sheep.

The publication also lists a number of agricultural loan programs that are available through the Agricultural Development Corporation. They are listed under a variety of subject categories in accordance with their intended use.

If you would like to find out more about these and the numerous other programs, you can get a copy of "Assistance Available to Alberta Farmers" (Agdex 871) from your district agriculturist, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM OPO or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

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November 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELEVENTH MEMBER INDUCTED INTO 4-H HALL OF FAME

Jack Kerns, formerly of Alberta Agriculture, is the eleventh person to be inducted into the Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place at the annual provincial 4-H Leaders Conference, which was held in Red Deer recently.

Mr. Kerns, a former district agriculturist in the Camrose, Ponoka and Strathcona regions, was honored for his active support of 4-H programs during the foundation's past 53 years of history in Alberta. Even though he retired from Alberta Agriculture in 1974, he has remained an active participant in 4-H projects.

Jack Kerns recepient of Hall of Fame Award.

Mr. Kerns was born in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., 72 years ago and was raised on a farm in the Acme area. He attended Olds Agricultural College when he was 16 and then enrolled in general agriculture at the University of Alberta.

In addition to his role as district agriculturist, Mr. Kerns was an instructor at the Vermilion School of Agriculture and later became involved in extension work for Alberta Agriculture's livestock branch.

In 1966 he was mainly responsible for the establishment of 4-H light horse clubs in Alberta. "I was instrumental in getting the horse clubs underway", he says, "and then I moved on to become involved in the livestock branch, but I still have direct contact with 4-H horse clubs."

Mr. Kerns, whose first love is horses, has a large collection of books on these animals which he plans to eventually donate to the Alberta's 4-H horse clubs. He has also worked with many other clubs, including dairy, swine and beef.

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Eleventh Member Inducted Into 4-H Hall Of Fame (cont'd)

The last induction into the Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame was in 1977 when the foundation honored Stan Gould for his volunteer work as a leader and as a member of the 4-H Advisory Council.

For further information contact Marina Dobirstein, 4-H Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. (Telephone:427 2541).

- 30 -

November 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE TELEVISION SPECIALS

Two Alberta Agriculture television specials, "The Alberta Connection" and "On the Water Front" will be aired on prime television time throughout the province in late November and early December.

"The Alberta Connection" documents the agricultural exchange that is going on between Alberta and Japan and Alberta and South Korea. To get this information, producer Barry Harris, and cameraman Bill Metcalfe, joined David Clarke, trade director with Alberta Agriculture, on a mission to the two countries where they saw canola seed being unloaded in Yokohama, meat products from Gainers and Canada Packers on Tokyo grocery shelves and Alberta peat moss being sold on the open market. Alberta does more than $900 million worth of international trade which brings in foreign exchange, creates jobs and help to keep prices down at the supermarket.

"On the Water Front" looks at Alberta's vast water resources and some associated problems. One of these is that 85 per cent of Alberta's population is in the southern half of the province, but most of the water is in the north.

Did you know that irrigation accounts for 83 per cent of all the water used in Alberta? With this fact in mind, producer Bob Keates examines the impact that the $300 million from the Heritage Trust Savings Fund, slated to be spent over the next five years, will have on the province's irrigation industry.

For further information on these two television specials contact Doug Pettit, Broadcast Media Branch, Communications Division, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. (Telephone: 427 2127).

- 30 -

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November 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEATING THE HIGH COST OF CHRISTMAS

If you and your family enjoy Christmas cake but you do not have the time to make one, or the desire to eat it over a long period, why not buy one from a Christmas bazaar or a farmer's market?

If you buy your Christmas cake from one of these places you can get the size of cake you want and one that is home-made. In the past the Christmas season was a time to renew bonds of friendship over fruitcake, shortbread and a cup of Christmas cheer, but the rising costs of ingredients have made many women take a serious look at their favorite Christmas recipes. Many say that for all the cake their family eats, they can buy one cheaper, which is true.

Because traditional Christmas recipes make a large cake, pudding, etc., they were more suited to past generations that indulged in hard physical work and openly admitted a passion for sweets than they are to today's society. However, if you enjoy making a Christmas cake and want it to be part of your Christmas tradition, you might consider dividing it up and giving some of it away as Christmas gifts to your friends and relatives.

Here is a recipe for candied fruit peel, submitted by Alberta Agriculture's district home economist at Airdrie, Debbie Brekke, which is guaranteed to save you money.

Candied Peel

3 large oranges
3 large lemons
1 grapefruit

3 cups sugar
1/8 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. corn syrup
1 envelop gelatin

. Quarter fruit and remove peel in sections. Scrape and trim most of the white membrane from the peel. Cut into 1/4" wide strips.

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Beating The High Cost Of Christmas (cont'd)

. Place in heavy, large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to boil. Simmer 15 minutes. Drain and repeat twice.

. Drain water from peel. Add 2 cups sugar, salt, syrup and 1 cup water. Cook over low heat, stirring often.

. Soften gelatin in 1/2 cup water. Stir into hot peel mixture and continue stirring until dissolved. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Remove strips and roll in remaining sugar. Place on wax paper and allow to dry overnight. Store in a tightly covered container.

- 30 -

November 23, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION APPOINTED

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, has announced the appointment of Don R. Young to the position of assistant director of the division, where his main responsibility will be for the staff development and administrative services section. He succeeds Ralph Berkan who was appointed director of the northeast region of the province last spring.

Mr. Young's duties will include planning and managing the recruitment, placement and in-service training of district agriculturists and other extension personnel and will involve more than 100 professional agrologists who are located throughout the department's six regions and 66 district offices.

In consultation with trainer district agriculturists and regional directors, he will assess training courses and programs offered by various agencies, personnel administration services and the branches of the department, as well as organize and conduct training programs on his own. This aspect of his work includes counselling, monitoring training progress and evaluating training programs.

A native of the Millet district, Mr. Young obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1969. His first appointment was as district agriculturist at Strathcona. Following a brief training period, he was transferred in 1969 to the district agriculturist position at Leduc and became a senior district agriculturist at that office in 1974. In 1976 he became senior district agriculturist in Wetaskiwin where he supervised the staff and the programs in the Wetaskiwin sub-region, which included the Camrose, Ponoka, Rimbey and Wetaskiwin districts.

- (cont'd) -

Assistant Director Of Extension Appointed (cont'd)

Over the years, Mr. Young has been keenly interested in all aspects of district agriculturist programs and services and he undertook postgraduate studies relating to extension administration, program planning and evaluation and employee relations and supervision at the Colorado State and Montana State universities as well as a number of the extension division's in-service training programs.

Mr. Young is a member of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and the Canadian Society of Extension, and he served as president of the Edmonton Branch of Alberta Institute of Agrologists in 1979-80. He is currently director of the Canadian Society of Extension and a member of the Soil Conservation Society of America.

He is married and has one daughter. His interests and hobbies include sports and photography and working on the family farm.

- 30 -

AL 1 69

AGRI-NEWS

AL/A39/A16/A39/81-11-30

November 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

The Experience Of A Lifetime 1
Farmers Plowed By Budget 3
Alberta Farm Building Home Study Course 9
Seminar On The Tax Implications Of The Federal Budget 11
Alberta Agriculture Wins National Television Awards 12
District Agriculturist Transfers 13

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November 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

Kevin Farran with Japanese host farmer.

Are you a young Alberta farmer with a little time to spare? Do you like adventure and travel? Are you interested in learning about farming in another country?

If your answers to these questions are yes, you could be interested in the Alberta-Hokkaido Agricultural Exchange Program. It was established in 1973 to give young dairy farmers in Alberta and young dairy farmers in Japan a chance to get first-hand experience of each other's culture and farming methods. And this year it has been expanded to include young beef, hog and poultry farmers.

The following excerpt from a letter written by Kevin Farran, a young dairy farmer in the Calgary area, will give you some idea of what you could be missing if you do not

- (cont'd) -

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The Experience Of A Lifetime (cont'd)

take advantage of this program.

"My year in Japan was one of the highlights of my life and I would do almost anything to return. The friendships I formed will never be forgotten."

Learning the Japanese culture, traditions, language and agricultural techniques was extremely exciting. And the most amusing experiences await all exchangees i.e. television appearances, participating in traditional dances, cutting the wrong farmer's hay crop and a host of other memorable moments."

Mr. Farran ends his letter by advising young farmers in this province, both male and female, to take up the challenge offered by this agricultural exchange program and expose themselves to "one of the most thrilling and stimulating experiences of a lifetime!"

To be eligible to participate in the Alberta-Hokkaido Agricultural Exchange Program, you have to be between the ages of 18 and 30 and you have to have had at least two years of practical farming experience. You must also be prepared to stay in Japan for one year.

Alberta Agriculture will pay your return trip to Japan. And you will receive a training allowance (the Canadian minimum wage) while you are in Japan plus board and room with a host family and all the amenities that go with family life. You also get a day off a week, which can be accumulated.

At the present time Japan is hosting three Alberta dairy farmers and two beef farmers (both sexes), while Alberta is hosting nine Japanese dairy farmers and four Japanese beef farmers. Between 1973 and 1980 twenty-six Alberta dairy farmers have visited Japan under the Alberta-Hokkaido Agricultural Exchange Program and 73 Japanese dairy farmers have visited Alberta.

November 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMERS PLOWED BY BUDGET

by Merle Good
Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Olds, Alberta

Headlines for the new budget should have read: "Beware of the Upcoming Disincentives from the Government's Eager Taxmen". In other words, watch out for the BUDGET!

It appears that Ottawa has entered into a new era of tax reform. Many tax deferral opportunities and investment incentives have been eliminated or substantially amended. For example, the budget initially reduces the tax rate in 1982 for all those with a taxable income above $11,120. In Alberta the top marginal rate will drop from 60 per cent to 47 per cent, and the 47 per cent rate will apply to taxable incomes over $53,376. Although the effect of this reduction on income tax payable is substantial, the spin-off of other provisions that were cancelled and/or amended will be more detrimental than beneficial to the farming community. The budget proposals are best illustrated by discussing those amendments that affect a farmer's year-to-year business activities and those that affect estate planning.

Financial Operations

Capital Cost Allowance

The budget proposes to limit the capital cost allowance deduction on any depreciable asset (new or used) purchased after November 12, 1981 (budget day) to half the normal rate of write-off currently provided in the first year. The portion disallowed will be available to be written-off over future years, and this rule applies to both corporate and unincorporated farmers.

For example, a $100,000 combine purchased in December will now generate a capital cost allowance (CCA) of only $15,000 rather than $30,000 as was the case under the previous system.

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Farmers Plowed By Budget (cont'd)

General Averaging

Starting in 1982, the budget repeals the general averaging provision and replaces it with a new forward averaging provision. Since the mechanics of this provision are too complex to be discussed in this article, a fact sheet explaining the procedures involved will be available in the near future.

The new averaging provision not only replaces the general averaging provision but also income averaging annuity contracts (IAACS) and capital gain reserves.

Five-Year Block Average

The five-year block average is still available as is the investment tax credit. However, a farmer who claims a deduction under the new forward averaging provision in any one year, cannot include that year in his block period.

Tax Accrued Interest

A three-year limit on the deferral of tax on accrued interest income has been set on investments acquired after November 12, 1981. Investments acquired before November 12, 1981 will be deemed to have been acquired on December 31, 1984, and all the accrued interest will have to be included in the individual's 1987 tax return. This measure eliminates the so called deferred annuity which allowed investors to earn interest tax-free until withdrawn. Farmers who sold their farms often used these instruments to shelter interest on funds not required for re-investment or living.

Farm Credit Corporation Proposal

A special program to be administered by the Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) is being designed for farmers who would not be able to remain in business if they had to borrow at the going rate of interest. These loans will bear an interest rate of 16¾ per cent, but an interest rebate of 5 per cent will be payable for up to two years. All the FCC's customary

Farmers Plowed By Budget (cont'd)

lending arrangements, such as the loan ceiling of $200,000 per farmer and the flexible repayment terms, apply to this program. The loans will be available to any farmer who is in actual distress; not only to the young, beginning or small farmers who are the FCC's normal clientele. And the program will commence immediately and continue in effect until March 31, 1982. The government has set aside $50 million dollars to allow FCC to make these additional loans and to pay for the cost of the interest rebate.

Corporate Changes

The 5 per cent surtax will be eliminated in 1982 for small business corporations; the annual limit on income qualifying for the low rate of tax (20 per cent in Alberta) will be raised to $200,000 from $150,000; and the cumulative limit will be raised to $1 million from $750,000. However, dividends paid to shareholders will no longer reduce the cumulative limit as in the past, which could result in some farm corporations reaching the $1 million barrier within five years.

The taxation of dividends has also been changed. A new 12.5 per cent tax on dividends will be levied before distribution, and this, coupled with a reduction in the dividend tax credit to 34 per cent from 37.5 per cent, will make the formation of corporations for tax-purposes substantially less attractive than was the case before November 12, 1981.

Small Business Development Bonds

The Small Business Development Bond Program, effective immediately, will be extended to include un-incorporated businesses and partnerships. However, to qualify a borrower must be in financial difficulty, regardless of whether he is borrowing through a corporation or through an unincorporated business. What constitutes financial difficulty has not been officially defined by the government at this time. Under the present Small Business Devel-

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Farmers Plowed By Budget (cont'd)

opment Bond Program, which expires on December 31, 1981, corporate borrowers can receive funds even if they are not in a financially distressed situation.

Another change in the new Small Business Development Bond Program is that interest paid on a loan, which is not deductible by the farmer or taxable by the bank, will apply only to interest paid in excess of 6 per cent. This change will probably result in interest charges on such bonds being raised by lenders to account for the interest income which will now be subject to tax.

Estate Planning

Capital Gain Reserves And Income Averaging Annuity Contracts

Prior to the budget, farmers who had sold assets could avoid having to pay tax immediately on a capital gain by having the sale proceeds received over a number of years. The taxable portion of the gain was pro-rated on the basis of the proceeds actually received. However, this provision has now been withdrawn on all property, including inventory disposed of after November 12, 1981. After this date those who do not receive the full proceeds when an asset is sold will be permitted to pay the tax in instalments over a three-year period with interest, providing that they supply acceptable security to Revenue Canada. The interest rate for the first quarter of 1982 will be 19 per cent, and the interest paid is not a deductible expense.

The budget also ends a very common income averaging provision called the income averaging annuity contract (IAAC). Deductions for IAAC will continue to be allowed for 1981, but if an annuity is purchased after November 12, 1981, the contract cannot extend beyond 1982. This means that money used to purchase the annuity and the interest it earns will have to be included as income in 1982. The IAAC originally allowed taxpayers to spread the taxation of certain types of income, such as the taxable half of a capital gain, over a

Farmers Plowed By Budget (cont'd)

number of years. The effect of eliminating these two averaging provisions on the farming community is alarming. Farmers have historically used both techniques, in conjunction with the roll-over provision, when transferring assets to the next generation.

To understand the consequences of this budget proposal assume the following:-

Prior to November 12, 1981, Mr. Ingram decided to sell his farm to his son John. Mr. Ingram estimated the market value of his property to be $600,000 — its V-day value was $100,000. Under their agreement John was to pay $300,000 (one-half the fair market value) for the property over a 10-year period at an interest rate of 5 per cent. The taxable capital gain on the sale of this property would be $100,000, and under the reserve provision, the parents would not have to include the entire taxable portion in a single tax year. They could argue that since the payments were being received over a 10-year period, the taxable capital gain would be only $10,000 per year.

However, if the same sale was negotiated after November 12, 1981, the parents would be deemed to have received the entire $300,000 in the year of the sale, and the taxable portion ($100,000) would be added to their income in that year, even though they had not received one cent of the money by the end of the year.

Alternatively, the sale could have called for a $200,000 down payment with the remaining $100,000 payable over 10 years at a 5 per cent interest rate. Before the budget, the parents could have purchased an IAAC with the $200,000 to shelter the taxable capital gain of $66,666 (i.e. 2/3 times the taxable capital gain) and used the reserve provision on the remaining $100,000. However, after the budget, the entire taxable capital gain of $100,000 would have been added to their income. As a consequence of this change in the tax law, farmers who sell to their children will now be faced with requiring a much larger initial payment to enable them to pay the tax.

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Farmers Plowed By Budget (cont'd)

Dividend Tax Credit

Under the previous tax system $37,000 of dividends from a small business could flow, tax-free, to a shareholder with no other source of income. The shareholder could then loan these funds back to the corporation, which resulted in the corporation retaining its small business eligibility and low rate of tax. This technique also generated many options for estate planning. For example, a loan could be left to non-farming children and its ultimate repayment would flow, tax-free, back to them. As mentioned earlier, the new system calls for a 12.5 per cent tax on all dividends, and the payment of dividends no longer reduces the cumulative limit for the small business deduction. These changes will require professional advisers to re-evaluate the applicability of corporations for estate planning purposes.

Conclusion:

Since many of the budget proporals will not come into effect immediately, taxpayers should ensure that they take advantage by the appropriate date of any transitional relief which is available to them. For example, to reduce the lifetime eligibility for claiming the small business deduction, it might be wise to pay taxable dividends before 1982. The implications of this budget are such that all taxpayers, and especially farmers, should consult with their accountants before completing their year-end plan. And it is important to note that until these amendments become law, they are only proposed changes to the law.

- 30 -

November 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FARM BUILDING HOME STUDY COURSE

If you are planning to construct a farm building, and if you are familiar with basic carpentry and the functional requirements of farm produce, animals and equipment, the Alberta Farm Building Home Study Course is for you.

Sponsored and designed by Alberta Agriculture's engineering and home design sector, the course is intended to teach participants how to select a site for a new farm building and how to plan and design it, as well as good construction techniques. Even if you intend to hire a contractor to do the building, you will find the course material an invaluable aid when it comes to selecting construction plans and materials.

The course will cover the following seven topics and the material on each topic will be mailed out on a weekly basis, starting towards the end of January. All the material has been arranged in such a way that it will be invaluable as a quick reference.

- Site Selection, Building Location
- Building Types and Functions
- Foundations and Floors
- Wood Construction
- Concrete and Steel Buildings
- Insulation and Finishing
- Services and Utilities

In addition to the seven topics listed above, there are six supplemental topics, two of which will be sent to each participant after the original seven have been mailed out. These topics are dairy barns, beef cattle housing and feeding facilities, swine housing, poultry housing, horse barns and grain storage and handling facilities. Each person who registers for the

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Alberta Farm Building Home Study Course (cont'd)

course will be asked when he registers to state which two topics on this supplementary list are of the most interest to him.

And how much will all this reference material cost you? Only $25, which is the registration fee.

The deadline for registering for the Alberta Farm Building Home Study Course is January 18, 1982, and application forms can be obtained from any extension office.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEMINAR ON THE TAX IMPLICATIONS OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET

A seminar to alert farm families to the recently announced tax changes in the federal budget that could have a far-reaching impact on the way they conduct their business in the future will be held in the Chateau Dining Hall in Vegreville at 1:30 p.m. on December 10.

The philosophy behind the seminar is that an informed farm family can take action to reduce the negative impact of the tax rules that have been changed by the budget. A family that knows what these changes are, what they mean and what they, as a family, can do about them is in a much better position than a family who is unaware of their options.

The speaker at the seminar will be Barry Broughton, lawyer from the well-known management and consultant firm of Deloitte, Haskins and Sells of Calgary.

The seminar has been arranged by Alberta Agriculture's district office in Vegreville and is being sponsored by the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce and the County of Minburn Agricultural Service Board.

The registration fee, which can be paid at the door, is $10 per person or $15 per couple.

Further information on the seminar can be obtained from Ted Darling, district agriculturist at Vegreville. His telephone number is 632-3361.

- 30 -

November 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE WINS NATIONAL TELEVISION AWARDS

Alberta Agriculture's television producers, Bob Keates, (left) and, Barry Harris, (right) recently won national awards for their productions. Keates produced a prize news clip on farm safety while Harris won recognition for the feature "Food, Facts and Funt".

Alberta Agriculture's television producers, Barry Harris and Bob Keates, both won national awards in the Canadian Farm Writers Federation (CFWF) competition, which was held in Edmonton recently.

Barry Harris won Honorable Mention for Food, Facts and Funt, which was cited for its format and good balance between entertainment and factual content. It featured Candid Camera's Allen Funt in an Edmonton supermarket where some of the food prices had been artificially raised. Funt engaged shoppers in a discussion on what is a good buy for Alberta food.

Food, Facts and Funt also won an Award of Merit at the Association for Media and Technology in Education in Canada Competition in Truro, Nova Scotia.

Bob Keates won Honorable Mention in the CFWF competition with his news clip on farm safety. It featured children discussing water safety on the farm.

- 30 -

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Communications Division
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November 30, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST TRANSFERS

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, John G. Calpas, has announced the transfer of district agriculturists to the Bonnyville, Calgary, Smoky Lake, Stony Plain, Strathmore and Warner district offices.

Ron Hockridge

Mr. Hockridge has been appointed district agriculturist at Bonnyville.

Formerly assistant district agriculturist at Lacombe, he is a 1971 B.Sc. (agriculture) graduate from Macdonald College, Quebec, and a native of Ontario.

Mr. Hockridge joined Alberta Agriculture in 1978 as a regional farm training specialist for the Peace River region. Prior to that he was employed for four years as a farm management consultant in Surrey, British Columbia.

Dave Zukerman

Mr. Zukerman has been appointed district agriculturist at Calgary, which shares with Airdrie the responsibilities for extension programs and services in the Rocky View municipality.

Prior to his present appointment, Mr. Zukerman had been district agriculturist at High River for eight years. He comes from Saskatchewan, but graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1968. He took his district agriculturist training at Lacombe and was appointed associate district agriculturist at Calgary in 1969. He was transferred to High River in 1973.

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District Agriculturist Transfers (cont'd)

Don Christensen

Mr. Christensen has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Smoky Lake where he will be working with senior district agriculturist Grant Gillund. Mr. Christensen was formerly district agriculturist at Lamont, and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1976, having majored in animal science and soils.

He took his district agriculturist training at Smoky Lake and transferred to the Lamont office in the fall of 1977.

Patrick Hawkins

Mr. Hawkins has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Stony Plain.

He was a summer assistant district agriculturist at Ponoka between university terms in 1980. Following graduation he rejoined the extension division and was posted to Falher to complete his district agriculturist training under district agriculturist Dave Spencer. Mr. Hawkins is a 1981 graduate of the University of Alberta with a major in soil science.

John Portail

Mr. Portail has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Strathmore where he will be working with senior district agriculturist Art Edwards. Mr. Portail was formerly co-district agriculturist at Brooks.

He was born and raised in Tunisia, North Africa, but graduated from the University of British Columbia with a B.Sc. (agriculture) with majors in animal science and agricultural economics. He joined Alberta Agriculture's extension division as an assistant district agriculturist in-training at Strathmore in 1972. The following year he was appointed district agriculturist at Hanna where he remained until he was appointed co-district agriculturist at Brooks in 1979.

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District Agriculturist Transfers (cont'd)

Ron Koots

Mr. Koots has been appointed district agriculturist at Warner where he succeeds David Pilling.

Mr. Koots comes from Eckville and is a 1980 B.Sc. (agriculture) graduate of the University of Alberta. He has spent the past year as district agriculturist in-training at Lethbridge under senior district agriculturist Mike Clawson.

- 30 -

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AGRI-NEWS

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December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Nutritive Funding For Central And West-Central Alberta 1
Hatching Egg Producers Vote To Establish Marketing Board. 3
Check For Grain Beetle Infestations Immediately. 4
Christmas Turkey Outlook 8
Summary Of Beef Marketing Seminar 9
Order Breeder Seed Now. 12
New Year Market Garden Courses. 13
Farm Wives Conference. 14
Head Of Veterinary Histology Section Appointed. 15
Regional Soil Specialist Hired For Peace River 17
Veterinary Pathologist Appointed At Airdrie 18

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
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December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUTRITIVE FUNDING FOR CENTRAL AND WEST-CENTRAL ALBERTA

Five projects in central and west-central Alberta will receive funding under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement. Totalling more than $300,000, the projects will generate investment estimated at $1.75 million and are expected to create 46 jobs.

Memco Processors Ltd. of Red Deer will receive $170,000 to help expand its rapeseed processing operation to include the refining of canola oil, most of which will be sold overseas. The company has operated a rapeseed cleaning and distribution business in Red Deer since 1976 and last added a rapeseed crushing plant that produces crude canola oil. The total cost of the new plant is estimated to be $850,000 and 10 jobs are expected to be created.

Great West Feeds Ltd. of Red Deer will receive $32,915 to modernize and expand its feedmill. This firm, which has been serving cattle, hog and poultry operations in central Alberta since 1971, prepares much of the feed to customer specifications. And the expanded and modernized facility will enable it to better serve the needs of its customers. The project is estimated to cost $274,000 and at least seven jobs are expected to be created.

Tobe Mines Ltd. of Edmonton will receive $72,450 to help build a mobile operation for crushing agricultural limestone at Cadomin. The limestone will come from a quarry which the company intends to develop near the town, and, when crushed to exact specifications, it can be used to reduce soil acidity. The project is estimated to cost $402,000, and it is expected to create 14 jobs.

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Nutritive Funding For Central And West-Central Alberta (cont'd)

Westview Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. of Penhold will receive $29,880 to build a fertilizer blending plant. In addition to blending fertilizer according to soil requirements, the company will sell anhydrous ammonia and agricultural chemicals and provide a soil analysis service for its customers. The estimated cost of the new facility is $249,000, and it is expected to create five full-time and 10 part-time jobs.

Machan's Custom Meat Cutting (1980) Ltd. of Rocky Mountain House will receive $1,681 to help modernize its meat market. The modernization will involve the installation of an additional freezer and the replacement of a cooling unit compressor. The estimated cost of the project is $8,400.

Assistance for the five firms was announced by H.A. Olson, federal minister of state for Economic Development and Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Alberta Agriculture. A new three-year, $28 million agreement was signed by the two governments in August.

- 30 -

December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HATCHING EGG PRODUCERS VOTE TO ESTABLISH MARKETING BOARD

Alberta's hatching egg producers have voted in favor of establishing an Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board.

The Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council reports that 60 per cent of the 50 eligible registered producers voted for the plan to establish a marketing board.

The plan presented by the Alberta Hatching Egg Producers' Association will see the marketing board formalize negotiating agencies to enable them to establish minimum producer prices for hatching eggs. It will also establish a system of production quotas. The new board will cover broiler-type hatching eggs only; not egg production-type hatching egg flocks.

The Agricultural Products Marketing Council will be seeking nominations from hatching egg producers for five people to serve as a provincial board of directors. These five people will be responsible for guiding the Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board through its formative stages.

For further information contact Tom Sydness, Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHECK FOR GRAIN BEETLE INFESTATIONS IMMEDIATELY

Alberta farmers who have grain in their bins that was harvested last summer, or that was carried over from last year, are urged to start checking it immediately for grain beetles and to keep checking it until it is sold.

This advice comes from Alberta Agriculture's entomolcgist and pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski, who says that checking is extremely important this year in view of the serious infestations that are turning up across the province. He also says "Anyone who delivers insect-infested grain to an elevator will have it rejected and will be forced to take it home and fumigate it". Apart from being unsalable, insect-infested grain can heat and be destroyed by a combination of insects and fungi.

Description of Beetles

There are two main types of beetles involved in infested grain problems in Alberta. They are the rusty grain beetle and the red flour beetle. Rusty grain beetles are reddish-brown, about one-twelth of an inch long and have a flat back and fairly long, slim antennae. They are cold-hardy and can survive in non-heating bins.

Red flour beetles are also reddish-brown, about one-sixth of an inch long and have rounded backs and short, stubby antennae. They are not cold-hardy and cannot survive in grain when the temperature falls below 4° C.

Detection

There are two methods of checking for grain beetles. One is to take samples of grain from the surface with your hands and from lower levels with a proble. Probes can be borrowed from most elevator agents. Screen the samples with a sieve that has large enough holes to let the beetles fall through. It is easier to see them if you place a piece of white paper

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Check For Grain Beetle Infestations Immediately (cont'd)

under the sieve and use a magnifying glass. Also, because the beetles are easier to see when they have been warmed up and start to move around, it is a good idea to warm the screenings to room temperature.

The second method of detection entails the use of insect traps which you can make out of a piece of pipe. Close off one end of the pipe, and drill holes the full length of the pipe. The holes should be large enough for the insects to pass through, but too small to allow the entry of grain kernels. Open the closed end of the pipe (which should extend to the bottom of the bin) about every two weeks to see how many beetles are in it. You can also use the pipe to check for heating in the grain. The more traps in a bin, the more chance you have of detecting an infestation.

Since there can be a large population of larvae in grain with very few adult beetles present, Mr. Dolinski recommends checking for larvae as well. This can be done by putting samples of grain on a screen, placed over a collecting container, and hanging a light bulb close to the surface of the grain. If there are any larvae, the heat from the light bulb will drive them, and any adults that may be present, through the screen into the recepticle below.

Control

Solid fumigants should be used for fumigating all beetle-infested grain except canola seed. The solid fumigants Gastoxin, Detia and Phostoxin are basically the same in that they all release phosphine gas which penetrates the grain and kills the insects. Mr. Dolinski says solid fumigants can be used as long as the temperature of the grain is above 5° C.

Although solid fumigants come in pellets as well as in tablets, the tablets are preferred because they are easier to handle. They can be either put into the auger intake as the grain is being moved into another storage area or they can be dropped down a one-inch pipe that is inserted at several locations in the bin. The pipe or probing technique involves pulling

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Check For Grain Beetle Infestations Immediately (cont'd)

the pipe upwards two to three inches at a time and dropping the tablets into it at each level. The recommended rate for using the tablets is 120 to 150 per 1,000 bushels of grain, depending upon the type of bin. However, never drop more than 10 tablets into the pipe at one level. Mr. Dolinski says that the more evenly the tablets are distributed throughout the grain, and the more airtight the structure, the better will be the results. Since fumigating will not necessarily eliminating a heating problem, grain that has been fumigated and continues to heat will have to be moved and cooled.

The best way to cope with a bin that is full to the top is to remove two or three truck loads of grain before inserting the pipe and then treat the grain that has been removed as it is augered back into the bin. If a bin is only partially full, the grain must be covered with a tarpaulin to hold the fumes in the grain. The tarpaulin should be removed after 10 days to prevent the condensation of moisture.

Mr. Dolinski says the approximate cost of using solid fumigants at the rate of 150 tablets per 1,000 bushels of grain is between 2.7 ¢ and 4 ¢, depending upon the product used and the supplier.

An alternative to fumigating is to treat the grain with Malathion Grain Protector (wheat flour impregnated with malathion) as it is augered from one area to another. The cost of this type of treatment is 2¢ per bushel for wheat and about 2.4¢ for barley. This product should not be used on canola seed or on malting barley.

Recent research has shown that cooling grain to -7° C for six weeks will kill al the growth stages of both the rusty grain beetle and the red flour beetle. If it is not possible to cool the grain to -7 ° C, and it contains beetles, treat it with Malathion Grain Protector or you can use a fumigant providing that the temperature of the grain is above 5 ° C.

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Check For Grain Beetle Infestations Immediately (cont'd)

If you plan to feed your beetle-infested grain before spring you do not have to treat it if you cool it to a temperature that is below 15° C and keep it below 15° C.

Both solid fumigants and Malathion Grain Protector are available from a number of grain elevators. However, since the policy on fumigants varies from one company to another, you should check with your local agents regarding the type of service they offer.

Some exterminating firms also sell fumigants and Oliver Industrial outlets in Alberta sell Malathion Grain Protector.

Precautions

Great care must be taken during the transportation, application (follow label directions) and storage of fumigants because they are the most toxic of all the pesticides. Always have somebody with you when you are using a fumigant, and after you have fumigated a bin, nail or lock it up, close the ventillators and post a warning sign on the door. Do not enter the bin until the odour has completely dissipated or until after the bin has been thoroughly aired for at least 24 hours.

Symptoms of fumigant poisoning are dizziness, blurred vision, vomitting and abdominal pains. Anyone who shows these symptoms should be exposed to fresh air and a doctor should be called immediately.

Further information on fumigation and grain treatment products and methods can be obtained from your agricultural fieldman or district agriculturist.

- 30 -

Alberta
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December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTMAS TURKEY OUTLOOK

"If a turkey is on your Christmas shopping list, you would be wise to shop carefully and wait for pre-Christmas specials", says Terry Appleby of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch.

Christmas turkey prices are expected to be about 10¢ per pound higher than they were at Thanksgiving because of sharply higher wholesale costs. 'Interest and storage costs of from 3¢ - 4¢ per pound per month on turkey that was processed in the early fall are mainly responsible for these higher costs, which will be passed on to the retailer and, ultimately, to the consumer", Mr. Appleby says. The need to supplement tight local supplies of tom turkeys with some Manitoba produced turkies, and the additional transportation expenses will also contribute to the higher costs.

Mr. Appleby expects heavy weight turkeys, which is the class of turkey that is most in demand at Christmas time, to be "specialled" as low as $1.38 per pound or 10¢ per pound higher than the $1.28 per pound at Thanksgiving.

- 30 -

Alberta
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December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMMARY OF BEEF MARKETING SEMINAR

by Andy Birch
District Agriculturist, Stettler

The theme of the fourth annual beef marketing seminar at Ponoka was called the "Survival of the Beef Industry", but perhaps it might better have been called the "Challenges of the Beef Industry". That industry is certainly in for some major challenges, changes and adjustments.

Following is a summary of the topics covered in the seminar:

Economy — "Blah"

Despite being cheerful and enlightening, Dr. Michael Walker, head of the Frazer Institute in British Columbia, brought some disquietening news. The economy is in for some difficult times and provincially only Saskatchewan and the Maritimes appear relatively favorable. Describing the economy as sluggish, Walker predicted interest rates will remain high due to a continued high level of inflation. As a general rule of thumb, he said that adding about 5 per cent to the level of inflation will give an indication of what interest rates are likely to be. In other words, inflation is a key factor in determining interest rates. Walker also noted that the key to controlling inflation lies in controlling the money supply. Whenever the growth of the money supply outstrips the growth of goods and services, there is inflation. This has been the situation in the past five years when money exceeded the growth in goods and services by about 30 per cent. Uncertainty about the future and people's future expectations have further aggravated the situation. Walker felt the inflation rate in the fall of 1982 could possibly rise to 16 per cent which would translate into 21 to 22 per cent interest rates. The addition of another 2 per cent for risk and uncertainty would put rates at 23 to 24 per cent. We'll have to wait and see.

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Summary Of Beef Marketing Seminar (cont'd)

Cattlemen's Perspective

Charlie Gracey, manager of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, illustrated with graphs and charts the serious plight of the beef producer. He referred to the market situation and the depressed economy as distressing elements in the beef industry. Declining consumer demand for beef, competition from pork and inflationary pressures are all hindering the industry. And with a continuing decline in consumer disposable income, further reductions in beef consumption are anticipated.

North-South Disparity

Jim Dawson of Dawson, Dau and Associates gave a report on an extensive study that he did to find out why cattle prices in Edmonton are generally $2 to $3 dollars lower than they are in Calgary. He said the price disparity was due to differences in carcass weight, dressing percentage, lot sizes and processing costs. He also noted that the present grading system does not truly reflect the real value of cattle.

Marketing Alternative

Max Roytenburg of Roygold Marketing Systems Ltd. commented on the inequities of the current market system and suggested various alternatives. Acknowledging his faith in the free enterprise system, Roytenburg said that the supply-demand system is not working and that most cattlemen will lose money but some will make money. He believes the system is failing because of excessive government intervention and that excessive interference in the free competitive market economy has destroyed its effectiveness and fairness. He condemned a system that leaves very little bargaining power for the smaller producers. And he referred to data which showed that the average return to cow-calf operations over the past 10 years was $38 per head, while feedlot operators during the same period averaged $6 per head. He also referred to a number of supply management programs based on various models. (Copies of the Executive Summary prepared by Roytenburg are available from Stettler office).

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Summary Of Beef Marketing Seminar (cont'd)

Market Options

Gary Bradshaw, Alberta Agriculture's regional farm economist at Red Deer, looked at various feeding alternatives and the economic costs associated with each. Regardless of the feeding program followed, Bradshaw clearly emphasized the importance of planning, record keeping and knowing your costs of production. To assist in determining production costs, he referred to a useful publication entitled "Feeder Cattle – What can you Pay?", (No.420/816-2). It can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

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December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORDER BREEDER SEED NOW

Applications for obtaining breeder seed through the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) Select Plot Growing Program must be received by Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch at Lacombe before December 31, 1981.

Seed growers who wish to participate in the Select Plot Growing Program must have successfully produced the same pedigreed crop for the last three years or have successfully produced it for three out of the last five years. They will then be eligible to apply for a variety of breeder seed of the kind of crop that they have had experience in growing.

The maximum plot size allowed for a beginner (probationary) select seed grower is one-half of a hectare (about one acre), and the minimum is one-quarter of a hectare (about half an acre).

The maximum plot size for an established seed grower is one hectare (about two acres). An established select seed grower who wants to change from one variety to another in the same type of crop can request permission from CSGA in Ottawa to grow a select plot of both varieties for one season. However, the combined area of the two plots may not exceed one hectare.

Growers wishing to obtain breeder seed of a SeCan variety must apply directly to the SeCan Association, 885 Meadowlands Drive, Suite No.512, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 3N2.

Application forms for ordering breeder seed and additional information on the Select Plot Growing Program can be obtained from Bob Nelson, Acting Secretary, Alberta Stock Seed Distribution Committee, Bag Service No.47, Lacombe, Alberta, TOC 1SO (Telephone:782-4641).

- 30 -

December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YEAR MARKET GARDEN COURSES

Alberta Agriculture's horticulture branch is sponsoring a three-day short course for market gardeners in Red Deer at the Red Deer Lodge from January 12 - 14, 1982, and in Peace River at the Provincial Building from January 26 - 28, 1982.

The course is designed for people who grow vegetable or fruit crops on a commercial basis and for those who are seriously considering going into the market gardening business. It is not intended for home gardeners.

The first day of the course will feature the following topics:

Pointers on Selling; Planning and Management; Services Available to Producers; Costs of Production and Potential Returns. There will also be a presentation on production and marketing by established market gardeners.

The second day will cover market garden equipment; accounting and taxation; early crop production (transplants, plastic mulches and tunnels); variety recommendations; and storage concepts and grading.

The third day will feature: vegetable weed control; vegetable diseases and insects; strawberry and raspberry production and a general question and answer section.

The registration fee for the course, which will run from 1.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. each day, is $10 for an individual day or $20 for the full three days.

Further information and application forms for the Red Deer and Peace River short courses can be obtained from Ralph Trimmer, Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, R.R. No.6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3 (Telephone: 973 3351) or from Lloyd Hauser, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO (Telephone: 362 3391).

- 30 -

December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM WIVES CONFERENCE*

Over 75 farm women from the Peace Region who attended the 1981 Farm Wives Conference, sponsored by Alberta Agricultural district home economists, heard some new ideas for community involvement and for motivating volunteers.

In the "select-a-session" get togethers the women learned about family decision making from a district home economist; listened to a veterinarian talk about animal health; discussed two generation farm families with a family living specialist; heard a local surface rights group talk about this important issue; and talked farm metrics with local district home economists and district agriculturists.

An informal get together featured displays of work by local craftspeople and artisans and a luncheon was provided by the Women of Unifarm.

To round off the hectic two days, there was a discussion on the changing and challenging roles of farm women. The participants wrote a want ad for a "farm wife" and learned to priorize goals for their life and family.

The 2½ to 6 year-old children in the children's program participated in puppet-making, crafts, sing-songs, pudding finger painting and cookie decorating.

Plans are already being made for the 1982 conference which will be held in Grande Prairie.

**Submitted by Nan Witham, District Home Economist, Fairview.*

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF VETERINARY HISTOLOGY SECTION APPOINTED

Dr. J.F.C.A. Pantekoek, head of Alberta Agriculture's reference laboratory branch, has announced the appointment of Dr. Dale Armstrong to the position of head of the histology section of the reference laboratory branch.

In his new position, Dr. Armstrong will be responsible for providing a rapid and accurate diagnosis of animal and poultry submissions for the treatment, surveillance and prevention of animal diseases. His duties will include supervising the electron microscopy and histopathology laboratories which are used as diagnostic aids by veterinary pathologists in Edmonton and the regional laboratories in Fairview, Airdrie and Lethbridge. Dr. Armstrong will also provide a consultive service for research and diagnostic problems that are associated with electron microscopy and histology.

He was born in Vermilion and moved with his parents to Edmonton where he obtained most of his education. However, he spent a considerable time both before and after moving to Edmonton helping his grandparents with their farm, the backbone of which was a cow-calf operation.

Dr. Armstrong spent three years in animal science and soils at the University of Alberta before entering the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. He graduated in 1973 with a D.V.M. In 1978 he returned to the university and graduated in 1980 with a M.V. Sc.

While an undergraduate, Dr. Armstrong spent a summer at the provincial poultry plant near Edmonton and two summers in the anatomy department at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. He also worked with a veterinarian who had a mixed practice in Pincher Creek. Following graduation, he worked in a mixed veterinary practice in Rimbey where em-

- (cont'd) -

Head Of Veterinary Histology Section Appointed (cont'd)

bryo transplant operations were performed. After that he moved to a mixed veterinary practice in Grande Prairie, where there was more emphasis on small animals. His duties here also included contract work for the federal Health of Animals Branch in the areas of brucellosis and TB area testing.

In 1976, Dr. Armstrong and his wife accepted a posting through CUSO to the Barbadoes in the West Indies. Here he was primarily involved in an ambulatory service for small farmers with about half his time being spent in making regular herd health visits to the larger producers who helped to support the service. He returned to Canada in 1978 and entered graduate studies in Saskatoon.

Dr. Armstrong joined Alberta Agriculture's veterinary staff after receiving his M.V.Sc. in 1980.

- 30 -

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December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL SOIL SPECIALIST HIRED FOR PEACE RIVER

The head of Alberta Agriculture's soils branch, A.W. Goettel, has hired regional soil specialist Garry Coy because of the increasing concern about soil erosion and the increasing interest in soil erosion control in the Peace River region.

Mr. Coy will be located at the Fairview regional office and will be mainly responsible for promoting soil and crop management practices that prevent water erosion. Water erosion is the most serious soil management problem in the Peace River region because of the region's particular soil, topographical and climatic characteristics. In fact, an Environmental Council of Alberta report has suggested that the region has a "unique" problem.

The creation of Mr. Coy's position is one of a number of activities that are aimed at minimizing erosion in the Peace River region. He will work with and through the staff of many government departments, and local governments, and especially through agricultural service boards. The Soil Conservation Area Program (SCAP) provides agricultural service boards with funds to control erosion.

Mr. Coy will also be involved in the demonstration and communication of information on the liming of acid soils. Such soils are increasingly limiting crop production in many areas of the Peace River region.

Mr. Coy, who has several years of farming experience in that region, comes to Alberta Agriculture from the Lands Division of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources. He holds a B.Sc. in microbiology from the University of Alberta and is completing a masters degree in soil science at the same university.

- 30 -

December 7, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST APPOINTED AT AIRDRIE

Dr. W.T. Nagge, head of Alberta Agriculture's regional laboratories branch, has announced the appointment of Dr. Paul Frelier to the position of veterinary pathologist at the animal health laboratory in Airdrie.

Dr. Frelier was born in Palo Alto, California, and grew up in Los Altos, also in California. He obtained his B.S. (veterinary science) from the University of California in 1972 and his D.V.M. from the same university in 1974. Following graduation he worked in private practice in Prince George, British Columbia, where he was mainly involved with large animals. After about a year in B.C., he went to Cornell University in the United States where he had a residency internship and started work on his Ph.D. in veterinary pathology. The subject of his Ph.D. was a protozoan organism *(Sarcocystic cruzi)* which causes deaths in cattle.

Dr. Frelier is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

- 30 -

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December 14, 1981

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THIS WEEK

Rural Development In East-Central Alberta Receives Boost 1

Alberta Beef Cattle And Sheep Support Program 3

Feeding Feeder Calves 5

Highlights From Plant Pathology Society Meeting 7

Three Herbicide Registrations Slated For Cancellation 10

A Serious Disease Of Onions And Related Crops 11

1982 Home Study Courses 13

Home Energy Conservation Seminars 15

Assistant Head Of Statistics Branch Appointed 17

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December 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN EAST-CENTRAL ALBERTA RECEIVES BOOST

Rural development in east-central Alberta has received a boost with the announcement that four firms will spend half a million dollars to build and upgrade nutritive processing facilities in that part of the province. The firms are to receive assistance totalling $100,000 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement.

Consort Packers Ltd of Consort will receive $85,393 to help with the construction of a new abattoir. The abattoir is the brainchild of a local development group which identified a need for a facility to cater to the wholesale, custom and retail demand for meat in the area. The group was previously involved in forming a drug store and a veterinary clinic. Construction of the abattoir will cost an estimated $341,000 and is expected to create three jobs.

Brodie's Bakery Ltd of Killam will receive $6,547 to build an addition to its bakery. The project will increase the freezer and cooler capacities of the facility and will help with the purchase of additional equipment and shelving. The estimated cost of the expansion is $65,000.

Drumheller Co-op Ltd will receive $7,973 to help build the meat processing portion of its new shopping complex in Stettler. The estimated cost of the project is $50,000 and 11 jobs are expected to be created.

Warden Meat Provisioning Ltd will receive $4,945 to help expand and modernize its meat processing facility near Stettler. The project will involve expanding the existing building and the purchase of additional equipment. It is estimated to cost $35,000 and to create two part-time jobs.

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Rural Development In East-Central Alberta Receives Boost (cont'd)

The announcement of assistance to the above firms was made by Senator H.A Olson, federal Minister of State for Economic Development and Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

December 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA BEEF CATTLE AND SHEEP SUPPORT PROGRAM

The recently announced Alberta Beef Cattle and Sheep Support Program will apply to beef cattle herds, feeder cattle and calves, slaughter cattle and slaughter lambs.

Under the herd maintenance section of the program 90 per cent of bred cows and heifers that were on inventory on September 1, 1981 are eligible for a payment of $50 per head.

Under the backgrounder section steers, heifers and calves that were purchased; owned for a minimum of 150 days; and sold as feeders between December 1, 1980 and November 30, 1981 are eligible for a payment of $4 per hundredweight. Cattle that were born and raised as the property of the applicant; were kept for a minimum of 150 days as backgrounders; and were sold as feeders during the period April 1, 1981 and November 30, 1981 are also eligible for a payment of $4 per hundredweight. Backgrounder cattle for the purpose of this program include intermediate stage animals or long yearlings that are fed on grass, silage and a combination of grain and are sold as short-keep feeders for finishing.

Under the slaughter cattle section slaughter steers, heifers and virgin bulls (grades A, B and C) that were owned for a minimum of 60 days and that were sold for slaughter between December 1, 1980 and November 30, 1981 are eligible for a payment of $4 per hundredweight.

Under the slaughter lamb section lambs that were owned for a minimum of 45 days and that were sold for slaughter between December 1, 1980 and November 30, 1981 are eligible for a payment of $10 per head.

There is no limit under this "one time" support program on the number of animals that can qualify for payment in any of the four sections.

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Alberta Beef Cattle And Sheep Support Program (cont'd)

To be eligible for the program, an applicant must be an Alberta resident. The eligibility criteria cover individuals, partnerships, co-operatives, private and public companies, Hutterite colonies and Indian reserves.

Dr. Bruce Jeffery, head of the beef cattle and sheep branch, says that anyone who plans to apply for assistance under the Alberta Beef Cattle and Sheep Support Program will need records of the purchases and sales of the stock involved to document their applications.

Application forms will be available from all district agriculturists by about the middle of January 1982, and notice of their availability will be announced through the news media.

The deadline for receipt of applications by the government is March 31, 1982.

- 30 -

December 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDING FEEDER CALVES

Farmers should carefully examine feeding alternatives before deciding on a feeding program for their feeder calves, says Gary Bradshaw, Alberta Agriculture's regional economist at Red Deer.

Using the recently published "Feeder Cattle — What Can You Pay?", Mr. Bradshaw has calculated that to break even, the price required for calves next spring may have to be higher for animals fed to gain at a slower rate than for those that are "pushed harder".

The following figures come from calculations of the cost per pound of gain required for 450-pound steer calves fed at a rate of one pound per day and 1.5 pounds per day.

	Slow Gain	Faster Gain
Feed Costs (Barley @ $2.20/bus & hay @ $60/ton)	49¢ per lb. gain	41¢ per lb. gain
Interest on Feed Costs (21% for ½ of feeding period)	3¢ per lb. gain	4¢ per lb. gain
Interest on Calf Purchase (21% on 70¢ calves)	18¢ per lb. gain	9¢ per lb. gain
Death Loss @ 3%	5¢ per lb. gain	2¢ per lb. gain
Yardage	11¢ per lb. gain	11¢ per lb. gain
	86¢ per lb. gain	67¢ per lb. gain
Therefore the break even selling price for calves on June 1st, 1982 would have to be	75¢ for a 650-lb. calf	67¢ for a 750-lb. calf

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Feeding Feeder Calves (cont'd)

Mr. Bradshaw points out that since the above figures represent the break even price, additional income would have to be added to cover risk and to provide a profit. If, for example, the owner of 100 head of calves that were to be fed over winter wanted $2,000 to cover his risk and his labor, he would need $20 per head or about 3¢ per pound more than his break even price.

Copies of "Feeder Cattle – What Can You Pay?" (Agdex 420/816-2) can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

December 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PLANT PATHOLOGY SOCIETY MEETING

Many interesting research papers were presented at the second annual meeting of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta, which was held at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville.

Following is a brief summary of some of the papers.

According to Dr. John Davidson of Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge and Peter Ellis of Alberta Agriculture, Fairview, leaf stripe of barley, caused by *Pyrenophora graminea*, was found in the Peace River region this year. Although it is an old disease in Western Canada, it has not been considered to be serious in recent years. This year it was most severe on the barley cultivar, Summit, which comprises about one per cent of the barley acreage on the Prairies, and infected seed stocks appear to be mainly responsible for the new outbreak. Several experimental seed treatment fungicides have apparently provided good control of the disease in field trials.

Dr. Keith Degenhardt of Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge reported that seed dressings which contain carbathiin (Vitavax and Vitaflo products) are not providing satisfactory control of bunt on wheat or of stem smut on fall rye. Other seed treatment fungicides which contain Busan and maneb are not effective either. However, a number of promising experimental fungicides have shown up in trials at both Lethbridge and Brooks, and registration is pending on some of them.

Ed Moskaluk of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks outlined the findings of a 1981 survey for verticillium wilt of alfalfa in southern Alberta. Twenty-two of 114 fields surveyed had the disease, and all the infected fields contained irrigated alfalfa which

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Highlights From Plant Pathology Society Meeting (cont'd)

was to be used for hay, silage or pasture. And the disease was found in both pure stands of alfalfa and alfalfa-grass mixtures; no wilt was found in seed or dehydrated alfalfa fields. A dramatic increase in the number of diseased fields occurred in the Lehtbridge area where eight dairy operations were affected, and growers on whose farms verticillium wilt was confirmed were given advice on its control.

Dr. Rick Reeleder of the University of Alberta in Edmonton reported that his research findings point to the involvement of several species of pathogenic soil-borne fungi, various nutrient deficiencies and pH imbalances in "alfalfa sickness". Although it has been a serious disease in central and northern Alberta, little is known about its cause, but work is continuing to further elucidate this.

Dr. Helen Liu of the Alberta Environmental Centre at Vegreville and Rick Butts of Alberta Agriculture, Fairview, reported that root maggots were found in several commercial canola fields across Alberta last summer. Their incidence and the severity of damage was greatest in the Edmonton and Peace River areas with southern Alberta having the least problems. The turnip maggot was the most common species found and it appeared to cause the most serious damage. Economic losses occurred in several fields.

Phil Thomas of Alberta Agriculture, Lacombe, reported that promising results were obtained when Bentate 50 WP was sprayed on commercial canola fields to control sclerotinia stem rot. The chemical was applied by air to five-acre test plots at 15 locations in north-central Alberta. In addition to a significant reduction in the incidence of stem rot, higher yields were reported in the fields that had been sprayed, and these yield increases were more than enough to pay for the chemical and its application.

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Highlights From Plant Pathology Society Meeting (cont'd)

Plant virologists at the University of Alberta found, during a survey of forage legume crops, that virus diseases are more widespread in these crops than was previously thought. Clover yellow mosaic virus, bean yellow mosaic virus, alfalfa mosaic virus and a new virus, sweet clover necrotic mosaic virus, were all identified. And a high proportion of commercial and experimental lots of alfalfa seed collected from various sources in Alberta were found to contain alfalfa mosaic virus.

- 30 -

December 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE HERBICIDE REGISTRATIONS SLATED FOR CANCELLATION

The registrations for Randox (allidochlor), Maloran (chlorbromuron) and Outfox (cyprazine) are slated for cancellation in December of this year, according to Rudy Esau, weed control specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Mr. Esau says Randox, registered to control certain weeds in onions, has not been used for commercial onion production in Alberta. He also says that TOK E-25 was removed for use on onions about two years ago, and that current recommendations for chemical weed control in this crop are inadequate. He adds that research is required to resolve this situation.

Maloran has been used by potato growers and carrot growers in Alberta, and its removal will have an impact on those growers who have been relying on it. Mr. Esau says potato growers have a number of alternatives available to them, but carrot growers will have to substitute Lorox or Afolan.

Since Outfox has not been commercially available for several years, its cancellation will not have any effect on corn growers.

All three of the above herbicides apparently required updated toxicology data, but, because of their limited use, the manufacturers decided not to spend the additional money required to provide these data.

- 30 -

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December 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SERIOUS DISEASE OF ONIONS AND RELATED CROPS

White rot, a serious disease of both green and dry bulb onions and garlic, diagnosed in two locations in northern Alberta last year, has now been confirmed in two home gardens in the southern part of the province.

Dr. Ron Howard, plant pathologist with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says the potential destructiveness of this disease, coupled with the fact that it has now been found in the south of the province where commercial onion production is centred, means that both amateur and commercial growers should be on the lookout for it.

He also says that the fungus that causes white rot infects onions, garlic, leeks, shallots and some species of wild onion. The number of plants that show evidence of infection apparently depends upon the amount of fungus in the soil, and diseased plants are nearly always scattered throughout the area. They seldom comprise a continuous part of any row.

The leaves on plants that have been attacked by white rot decay at the base, turn yellow, wilt and fall over. The older ones are the first to collapse. Onions that have white rot can usually be pulled up very easily because their roots are badly rotted. Numerous sclerotia (tiny round black particles embedded in white fungal growth) are present throughout the infected parts of the plant as well as on the surface of the bulb.

Dr. Howard says it is not known how long the fungus persists in the soil in this province in the absence of a host, but in some onion-growing areas of the world it has survived

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A Serious Disease Of Onions And Related Crops (cont'd)

for eight to 10 years. It is most severe in cool, moist soil and can be spread from one area to another by transplanted seedlings, machinery and running water. The fungus can also be spread via slightly diseased onion sets, wild onions and in the form of sclerotia mixed with onion seed.

Dr. Howard asks anyone who suspects he may have white rot in his onions or related crops to contact the nearest regional crop clinic.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 HOME STUDY COURSES

The keen interest that farmers have shown in Alberta Agriculture's Home Study Course since it was established in 1975 has resulted in its steady expansion both in the number of courses that are offered and the techniques that are used to present them.

The original home study course involved only one course that was mailed out to participants. Now the home study course covers a variety of courses that are mailed out each week and that are supplemented by radio and television programs, local study groups and regional seminars. The course material is arranged in such a way that it is ideal as a source of reference.

The next set of home study courses will begin on January 25, 1982, and will cover farm buildings, irrigation management, forage and animal health.

The Alberta Farm Building Course (for livestock) was prepared by Alberta Agriculture's engineering field services branch and will be presented in north-central Alberta (region 3). It will consist of seven lessons that will cover types of buildings and their functions; foundations and floors; wood construction; concrete and steel buildings; insulation and finishing; and services and utilities. Participants may also choose two optional lessons from among specific buildings for beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, horses, sheep and poultry.

The Alberta Irrigation Management Course was prepared by Alberta Agriculture's farm irrigation services branch and will be presented in south-central and southern Alberta (regions 1 and 2). It will consist of six lessons and will cover the properties of soil and the soil's relationship to water, plants and nutrients. There will also be a detailed study of irrigation methods, where the main emphasis will be on surface and sprinkler irrigation; the management of land; crop and water resources; and the economics of irrigation management.

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1982 Home Study Courses (cont'd)

The Alberta Forage Course was prepared by Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch and will be presented in south-central and southern Alberta (regions 1 and 2 and the southeastern part of 3). It will consist of eight lessons and will cover the growing, harvesting and handling of dry forage and silage. There will be information on perennial forage crops; range and pasture management; growing animal forage; harvesting and handling systems; nutrient values; the economics of forage production; and an indepth study of silage production.

The Alberta Animal Health Course was prepared by Alberta Agriculture's animal health division and the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association and will be presented in northwestern Alberta and the Peace River Region (regions 5 and 6). It will consist of 15 lessons, five of which will cover the anatomy of a healthy animal; the means by which an animal can contact diseases; the treatment of disease; maintaining animal health; and the role of government in animal health. The remaining 10 lessons are optional and will cover specific diseases of beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, swine, sheep, goats and poultry. Participants will be able to choose two of the optional courses.

The deadline for registering for any of the above courses is January 18, 1982 and the registration fee for each course is only $25!

You can obtain more information about the courses and/or registration forms from your local district agriculturist.

- 30 -

December 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION SEMINARS

Following is a list of energy-related public seminars sponsored or facilitated by Alberta Agriculture between January and the middle of March, 1982.

Date	Location	Topic
January 13 (day)	Eckville	Retrofit Seminar
January 14 (day)	Red Deer	Retrofit seminar
January 18 (evening)	Chestermier	Low energy house construction
January 19 (afternoon)	Camrose	Low energy house construction
January 20 (afternoon)	Forestburg	Insulating and vapor barrier workshop
January 21 (day)	Stettler	Retrofit workshop
January 26 (afternoon)	Wetaskiwin	Passive solar design
February 6 (day)	Crestomere	Retrofit workshop
February 12 (day)	Barrhead	Low energy construction, passive solar
February 13 (day)	Lac La Biche	Low energy construction, passive solar
February 16 (evening)	Innisfail	Developing the lower level
February 18 (evening)	Red Deer	Developing the lower level

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Home Energy Conservation Seminars (cont'd)

February 26 (day)	Coleman	Energy efficient construction Alternate energy sources
February 27 (day)	Claresholm	Energy efficient construction Alternate energy sources
March 4 (morning)	Nanton (Nanton's Womens Conference)	Energy conservation
March 5 (morning)	Lethbridge (Ag-Expo Show)	Energy efficient construction
March 18 (day)	Red Deer	Energy efficient construction, passive solar design

For additional information on specific seminars please contact your local district home economist or Don Wharton, Home Design Branch, 401, 10508-82 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 2A4 (Telephone: 433-5841).

- 30 -

December 14, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT HEAD OF STATISTICS BRANCH APPOINTED

Chuck Sterling, head of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch, has announced the appointment of Fred Boyce to the position of assistant branch head.

In this new position Mr. Boyce will be responsible for directing and supervising the statisticians in the branch and will assist with other branch activities.

He comes from Ontario where he grew up on a dairy and cash crops farm. He obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the Ontario Agriculture College at the University of Guelph in 1973.

Following graduation, Mr. Boyce spent several months working as a soil and drainage technician for a conservation authority in Ontario. He then got a job with Agricultural Tax Services in Ontario as an income tax consultant for farmers and fishermen. He joined Alberta Agriculture in the spring of 1975 as crop statistician with the statistics branch and has held that position until his present appointment.

- 30 -

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Lord
make me an instrument
of thy peace

where there is hatred, let me sow love
where there is injury, pardon
where there is doubt, faith
where there is despair, hope
where there is darkness, light
and where there is sadness, joy

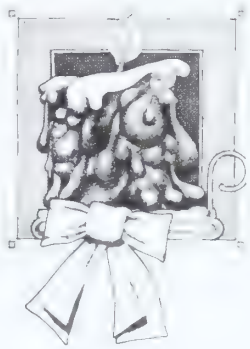
O Divine Master
grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled, as to console
to be understood, as to understand
to be loved, as to love

for it is in giving
that we receive

it is in pardoning
that we are pardoned

and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life

St. Francis of Assisi
1181-1226



Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year
from the staff of
Alberta Agriculture's Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

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COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

December 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

A Japanese Christmas 1

Christmas With Our Native People. 3

Christmas During The Depression 5

Some Less Expensive Christmas Recipes 7

Gifts That Keep On Giving 12

Christmas Dough Ornaments. 13

Making Christmas Simpler. 15

The Truth About The Poinsettia 18

A Christmas Story. 20

Alberta
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December 21, 1981

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A JAPANESE CHRISTMAS

by Kevin Farran
Dairy Farmer near Calgary

Kevin Farran and his friends at a New Year's Eve party in Japan.

Celebrating Christmas in Japan, where the occasion is considered somewhat of a "foreign folly", could be a lonely experience, but I did not find it so.

I was in Japan last Christmas as an exchange student under the Alberta-Hokkaido Agricultural Exchange Program, which is designed to enable young farmers from Alberta to spend a year on a Japanese farm and vice versa.

I found that despite the fact that obtaining and sending off cards and gifts requires considerable perseverence in Japan, the task was very satisfying. I think that anybody who has battled with the postal officials and customs officers in a foreign country will appreciate what I mean when I say I had a real sense of accomplishment.

I spent Christmas Eve alone with a bottle of wine watching television, and when I awoke on Christmas morning, I could have been dismayed at the starkness of the corner where there should have been a Christmas tree. I could also have missed the carols and tinsel

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A Japanese Christmas (cont'd)

and the assortment of colored and oddly shaped gifts that Westeners are used to finding under their Christmas trees. But this was not the case. I simply let my mind drift back to the activities and festivities of past Christmases.

Some Japanese people give gifts at Christmas to keep in fashion with the North American culture, and they may give them anytime between the beginning of December and the end of January. But the big celebration in Japan takes place over the New Year when everyone celebrates for about three days.

Although there are churches in Japan where Christians can attend a Christmas service, he or she may have to travel a very long way to reach such a church. And the sermon, being in Japanese, sounds not unlike the staccato of a machine gun! Only one per cent of Japan's 120 million people are Christians. Almost all the others are Buddhists.

Christmas day began for me with milking the cows and doing the usual chores. Then I went off to dispatch my gifts to Canada. I chose to mail them on December 25 so that I would have the feeling of giving them on Christmas Day. Having got them safely off, I imagined the big grins and even bigger laughs that would greet them when they arrived at their destination.

It is business as usual in Japan on Christmas Day, but my host family, who had spent some time in the United States, prepared a special chicken dinner for me. Then came the best part of all. The telephone calls on Christmas afternoon and evening from family and friends in Strathmore where they were in the midst of celebrating Christmas Eve. It seemed that the warmth and joy of Christmas crossed the barriers of both time and space to be with me in far off Japan.

- 30 -

December 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTMAS WITH OUR NATIVE PEOPLE

Christmas on my reserve starts with midnight mass for the Roman Catholics and with church services on Christmas morning for the other denominations.

We give gifts to show the love we have for an individual rather than simply to exchange gifts as is done in the white society. This means that when we give a gift to somebody we do not expect to get a gift back and we do not automatically give gifts to all our family and friends. The gift might be a pair of mocassins, a leather jacket, yard goods, etc.

We have our Christmas day feast at noon, and those who follow the old tradition make special soup, which you would probably call a stew. Here is the recipe.

Cut the meat as for stew in one-inch cubes. The meat can be moose, elk, deer or beaver, whichever you have. Melt grease in a heavy pan, add the meat and sear it until it is brown. Add water to cover the meat and cook it until it is very tender. Then add carrots, turnips, potatoes and shredded cabbage. Now add two cups of dried saskatoons and cook the soup for another half to three-quarters of an hour. It is the berries that make the soup special. Finally, thicken it with a paste made of flour and cold water. We serve the soup, which is dark blue in color, with fresh baked bannock that has been buttered with lard.

Other foods eaten at the Christmas feast might include fried bannock, pemmican (dried meat and berries) and dried chokecherries that have been crushed (including the stones) and made into a paste. The chokecherries are served with the meat. Then we often serve cooked blueberries or saskatoons as fruit and we also serve tea; never milk or coffee.

However, today many members of our society follow the tradition of the white society and serve goose, turkey or chicken with cranberry sauce and vegetables.

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Christmas With Our Native People (cont'd)

In days past, our houses were not decorated for Christmas. But with the coming of electricity to the reserve, one now sees the same kind of decorations in our houses as you see in the towns and cities of the white society. We also have decorated Christmas trees.

Christmas is not the big celebration for us that it is for white people. In the native culture, New Year's Day is the important day, and it is the most beautiful day! While people celebrate Christmas with their own families, on New Year's Day they invite friends to their houses for the feast. The same type of food is served as is on Christmas Day, but wine or some other type of liquor is included for this feast. Families make their own wine and liquor from blueberries, saskatoons, chokecherries, strawberries, dandelions, etc.

Some families put on a dance on New Year's Day and invite their friends. The important dance at this time is the chicken dance.

This is the story of our native people's Christmas as told to Edith Zavadiuk, Alberta Agriculture's regional home economist at Two Hills, by Maggie Dion of the Kehewin Indian Reserve, which is near Bonnyville.

- 30 -

December 21, 1981

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CHRISTMAS DURING THE DEPRESSION

by John Wiebe
Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks

My family left the turmoil and the gathering political storm of Russia and arrived in Saskatchewan in 1924.

We came to Canada, the land of promise, to practice political freedom and to continue exercising a strongly held faith in God. My parents made the move with four children, and five more were born during the depression.

Since my father had been a farmer in Russia, he got a job on a farm when he arrived in Canada and then bought his own farm near Colonsay, Saskatchewan. The first two or three years were good years and the family prospered. Then came three consecutive years of drought, grasshoppers and hail.

My father lost his farm and moved with his family into Saskatoon. By this time the depression was upon us, and this period was particularly cruel to new arrivals like my father who lacked the language and vocational skills that were essential for making even a meagre living.

I was too young to realize how poor we were. Life did not seem too bad, and my father often reminded us that we had many advantages over the relatives we had left behind. We had something to eat every day and we had no one to fear in this new land. I remember my father telling us that in this country we never had to miss a meal, we all had a chance to go to school and that if the police came to the door it was because we had done something wrong.

Even during the depression Christmas for us younger children was always a happy and exciting time. We thought the peanuts, apples and one orange that we received at a

- (cont'd) -

Christmas During The Depression (cont'd)

Sunday school concert were tremendous gifts. It was a tradition in our home, where the main Christmas activities centred around the church, for each of us to put our plate on the table and for our parents to put our gifts on the plates. The gifts were very simple, and I remember only a painted wooden horse which I received one year.

Another incident, which I was only partly aware of at the time, concerned my father's gold wedding ring. He went from door to door in an area where some of the better-off people in Saskatoon lived to try to sell his ring so that he could buy some Christmas gifts for his family. There were no buyers for used wedding rings in Saskatoon in the 1930's. At the time I felt very embarrassed that people should know that this old man who spoke such broken English was my father.

However, many years later, in a much more sophisticated age, I see my father's action in a very different light. The decision to sell his wedding ring must have been very difficult indeed for this proud, self-reliant man. It represented an admission that he needed help and he humbled himself for us. In his own way his attempt to sell his gold wedding ring was a personal response to the gift of Jesus our Christ.

- 30 -

December 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOME LESS EXPENSIVE CHRISTMAS RECIPES

With food prices rising, this is the time to look at some of the less expensive Christmas recipes.

Have you ever made an old-fashioned steamed carrot pudding? It was a Christmas tradition years ago when money was not very plentiful. Here is the recipe.

Steamed Carrot Pudding

75 mL shortening
125 mL brown sugar
1 egg
15 mL water
10 mL grated lemon rind
250 mL all-purpose flour
3 mL baking powder
2 mL baking soda
2 mL salt
2 mL cinnamon
2 mL nutmeg
250 mL grated raw carrots
250 mL raisins

In a large bowl cream shortening and brown sugar together. Add egg, water and lemon rind; mix until smooth.

In a small bowl combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add to creamed mixture; mix well. Fold in carrots and raisins.

Turn into a greased 1.5 L pudding mould. Cover. Steam one hour, 30 minutes.

Serve with hard sauce or vanilla sauce.

Enough for 10 servings.

Hard Sauce

50 mL soft butter
250 mL sifted icing sugar
5 mL vanilla
1 egg

Cream butter; add sugar gradually, beating until well blended.

Add vanilla and egg. Beat until smooth.

Chill thoroughly.

- (cont'd) -

Some Less Expensive Christmas Recipes (cont'd)

Variations:

(1) When chilled, form into balls and roll in grated orange rind.

(2) When chilled, mold with a small fancy cutter.

Vanilla Sauce

125 mL brown sugar
30 mL cornstarch
1 mL salt
500 mL boiling water
50 mL butter or margarine
10 mL vanilla
dash nutmeg

In a saucepan, combine brown sugar, cornstarch and salt; gradually stir in water. Boil, stirring constantly for 5 minutes.

Add remaining ingredients.

Serve hot.

Perhaps you have a lot of garden carrots, but you are not too keen on pudding. How about a cake? Here is a recipe for crunchy carrot cake.

Crunchy Carrot Cake

5 eggs
500 mL sugar
750 mL all-purpose flour
5 mL salt
15 mL baking powder
2 mL baking soda
250 mL oil
750 mL grated raw carrot
5 mL vanilla
125 mL chopped walnuts
250 mL cut-up mixed fruit (about 225 g)
250 mL raisins (about 150 g)

Heat oven to 160° C.

Grease and flour a large tube pan (22 x 10 cm).

Beat eggs; gradually add sugar, beating until smooth.

Combine flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Add to creamed mixture, alternately with oil.

- (cont'd) -

Some Less Expensive Christmas Recipes (cont'd)

Fold in grated carrot, vanilla, walnuts, mixed fruit and raisins.

Pour into prepared pan and bake 60 to 90 minutes.

Enough for one 22 cm cake.

Chocolate swiss roll with marshmallow sauce is another Christmas favorite.

Chocolate Swiss Roll

4 eggs, separated
225 mL sugar
50 mL cocoa
30 mL flour
icing sugar
ice cream (about 500 mL)

Grease a 2 L jelly roll pan (40 x 25 x 2 cm). Line with waxed paper. Grease paper and dust with sifted flour.

Preheat oven to 190° C.

Beat egg yolks. Add sugar, cocoa and flour; beat well.

Beat egg whites until stiff peaks form; fold into creamed mixture. Spread into prepared pan. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until top springs back when pressed.

Turn onto a tea towel liberally dusted with icing sugar. Immediately peel away paper. Gently roll cake and towel from the short end. Cool about 1 hour; unroll.

Spread cake with slightly softened ice cream. Reroll; wrap in foil and freeze until almost serving time.

Serve with caramel sauce or the following mint marshmallow sauce.

Enough for 12 - 15 servings.

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Some Less Expensive Christmas Recipes (cont'd)

Mint Marshmallow Sauce

125 mL sugar
125 mL water
10 marshmallows
2 egg whites
*25 mL creme de menthe

Boil sugar and water together for 5 minutes and remove from heat. Add marshmallows and stir until melted.

In a clean bowl, beat egg whites until stiff but not dry. Gradually pour hot syrup over egg whites, beating continuously. Beat in creme de menthe. Chill; stir before serving.

*If desired, substitute 1 mL peppermint flavoring and a few drops of green food coloring.

Enough for 12 to 15 servings.

Tempting turnip is delicious and convenient to make, and it can be prepared the day before and popped into the oven as soon as the turkey is taken out. It will be piping hot by the time the gravy is made and the turkey is carved.

Tempting Turnip

3 medium-sized turnips or 1 medium rutabaga
250 mL find bread crumbs
1 beaten egg
15 mL brown sugar
5 mL salt
1 mL pepper
30 mL margarine or butter

Pare and dice turnips; cook until fork tender. Drain and mash thoroughly. Add 125 mL bread crumbs, beaten egg, brown sugar, salt and pepper; combine and pour into a

- (cont'd) -

Some Less Expensive Christmas Recipes (cont'd)

greased 1.5 L casserole.

Melt margarine; lightly mix with remaining 125 mL bread crumbs. Sprinkle over turnip mixture.

Bake uncovered at 180 ° C for 20 to 25 minutes, until top is lightly browned.

Enough for 4 - 6 servings.

Apple juice combined with a fairly inexpensive dry red wine makes a delicious mulled wine.

Mulled Wine

500 mL	apple juice
1 L	dry red wine
125 mL	honey
1	unpeeled lemon, thinly sliced
4	whole cloves
4	allspice berries
2	small cinnamon sticks

Combine all ingredients and heat, without boiling.

Strain, serve very hot.

Enough for 12 servings (125 mL each).

The above recipes submitted by Helen Raynard of Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory, have all been tested and approved at the laboratory.

If you would like more recipes ask your district home economist for the free publication entitled "Christmas Recipes" (Homedex 1121-24-1). It can also be obtained from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

December 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

by Eileen Klein
Regional Home Management Specialist, Grande Prairie

The holiday season means visiting friends and neighbors, sampling fruit cake and eggnog, and exchanging gifts. Sometimes it seems that the only part of the tradition that thrives is the gift giving. Every year it gets a little harder to buy a little something for everyone on the list.

Take a minute to think about the people on your Christmas list. How often do you spend time with them? Relationships between people are not strengthened through the exchange of gifts but by experiences shared. The most wonderful gifts do not take the place of time spent with those you love.

This year give gifts that can't be bought in any store. Give a part of you — some time to share. You might like to give I.O.U.'s to friends and relatives for baby sitting, window washing or for a movie. Think of something they would really like to do, and give them the option of saying "when". It might be to go to a hockey game, the live theater or a symphony — buy the tickets and give them one for Christmas. Keep the other and say "Let's go together".

Take a favorite senior citizen out for a drive, a shopping trip or lunch at your house. Offer a few hours of babysitting to a young mother.

Gift certificates for services are most useful to the elderly, the handicapped and mothers with small children. An offer to run errands or do some baking lets people know that you are thinking about them and that you really care.

Give the gift of time and make the Christmas feeling last throughout the year.

- 30 -

December 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTMAS DOUGH ORNAMENTS

Have you ever tried making Christmas ornaments out of dough? They are easy to make and they can be very attractive.

Debbie Brekke, district home economist at Airdrie, says all you need is a special dough which is described below, assorted cookie cutters, paint, wire or some decorative cord, a knife, a pointed artist's brush or Q-tips. If you want to make more elaborate ornaments, you can do so by sticking small pieces of the dough together with water.

Here is how you make the dough. Combine four cups of flour and one cup of salt. Slowly add two cups of water and mix well with your hands. Then knead the dough for five minutes and roll it out on a floured cutting board or aluminium foil to a thickness of half an inch. Use the cookie cutters to cut out the shapes you want or you can draw free-style ornaments with a wet knife. This recipe will make enough dough for about 18 ornaments that measure three to four inches in size.

To make hangers for the ornaments, cut short pieces of wire and make loops. Work the ends of the loops into the back of the ornaments at the top, being careful not to puncture or pierce the front surfaces. An alternative way of hanging dough ornaments is to make a hole at the top of the ornament and thread a piece of decorative cord through it after the ornaments have been painted.

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Christmas Dough Ornaments (cont'd)

Ms. Brekke recommends baking dough ornaments in a preheated 350° F oven for 45 minutes to one hour. She says you can tell when they are done by tapping them with your fingernail. If the dough is hard and has a hollow sound, it is done. Cool the ornaments on a cake rack before coloring them with acrylic or water color paints. After the paint has dried, cover them with two protective coats of acrylic varnish.

A big attraction of making ornaments out of dough is that it is a creative activity that the whole family can become involved in.

- 30 -

December 21, 1981

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MAKING CHRISTMAS SIMPLER

by Nadine Vester
Family Living Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Are there still families in Alberta where mother gets up before dawn, stuffs the turkey, puts it in the oven and spends most of the rest of the day in the kitchen? One would hope not in a province where about 50 per cent of women are employed in some manner outside the home.

Christmas really is not a good time to practice martyrdom. But what is the alternative to a big family gathering with mother as caterer? Families are combining their efforts on Christmas day. One such situation involves a couple and their children who get together with one or two divorced friends, with or without their children, depending upon visiting arrangements. The families take turns hosting the dinner year by year, and the host family provides the turkey, while the visiting families bring salads, rolls, desserts and whatever else has been planned. No longer do two families out of the three have complete leisure with the third suffering from complete exhaustion. These families have simplified Christmas and alleviated those holiday blues that are born of fatigue and, even, of loneliness.

Where else should we look for simplification? Although we do not need all those goodies that mothers and grandmothers have produced over the years, most of us have favorites without which it would not seem like Christmas. It is useful to go through your recipes and make a shopping list which includes the ingredients of all the items that you plan to make so that you can purchase them at the same time. However, be prepared that the price will be a shocker!

If you prepare the ingredients for your Christmas cake the night before you plan to bake it, the job will seem less strenuous. Working homemakers have been known to use

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Making Christmas Simpler (cont'd)

Thanksgiving weekend or November 11 to get a start on their Christmas baking, thanks to the home freezer. While you are baking, consider giving a selection of goodies to friends who do not bake.

If you spend part of the summer making your own preserves, jellies or pickles, do not overlook these items for Christmas giving. An unusual preserve will be much appreciated by a friend who does not have access to the ingredients. You can dress it up in a fancy jar or wrap, and perhaps include the recipe.

Many women have discovered the efficiency of the production line at Christmas time. If keeping in touch with your friends is important to you, why not write a Christmas newsletter with a short personal note. Though frowned upon by such authorities ans Ann Landers and Emily Post, it is certainly preferable to a Christmas card that simply says "I'll write later". When is later? It is incredibly boring to write the same details to ten different friends even if one has the time. When addressing your envelopes do them all at once, use return address labels if you have them, stick on the stamps and then put in your newsletters.

Gift wrapping adapts well to a production line. Get out all the brown paper, boxes, wrapping paper, ribbon, string, tape, customs declarations and your address book and make it the work of one or two evenings. Make one major trip to the post office – or do you enjoy standing in line? Better still, pick up the postal rates folder and a large number of stamps in several denominations and purchase a postal scale. This will end your waiting in line, except for special services. It is amazing to see the numbers of people who will stand in line to buy two or three stamps. Most of us could afford to buy in larger quantities.

As for shopping, it is useful to have a storage area for Christmas gifts that have been accumulated throughout the year. It helps a great deal to have a notebook sitting handy

Making Christmas Simpler (cont'd)

in this area so that you can record what you have bought and for whom you have bought it. Otherwise you can end up with two gifts for one person and none for others. It can be fun to visit little shops when you are on vacation. Good quality souvenirs make appropriate and interesting Christmas gifts. Little pieces of jewelry or a special note paper are usually within reason. Items can be picked up on sale or one at a time when you are conducting your daily business, if you make this kind of Christmas shopping a policy at your house.

Do not neglect the part that your family can play in helping to get ready for Christmas. Children can help you with all sorts of tasks from dusting the house to cutting up bread slices for stuffing, from decorating cookies to decorating the Christmas tree, and or by adding their own touch to the festive season. They can be especially helpful in the gift wrapping sessions, either by supplying that extra finger or by doing part or all of the wrapping for you. Do your fondest memories not come from the times you helped get ready for Christmas?

- 30 -

December 21, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE POINSETTIA

by Betty Vladicka
Horticulture Branch, Alberta Agriculture

The time has come to tell the truth about the poinsettia. For many years this plant has been considered poisonous, and unfounded stories have led to the belief that any part of the plant could be lethal if ingested by a human being or a pet.

However, research at the Ohio State University in the United States has now debunked this old wives' tale. Their studies conclusively showed that the ingestion of unusually high doses of the poinsettia did not cause death nor any sign of toxicity or change in the general behaviour of the test animals.

The festive poinsettia was introduced into the United States in 1825 by Joel Poinsett, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. And these plants were first used at Christmas time during the 17th century in Mexico by Franciscan priests who used them in their nativity festivals.

The poinsettia is a deciduous shrub that is native to Mexico and it often reaches a height of three metres. The "flower" consists of small inconspicuous yellow flowers at the center, surrounded by large colorful bracts. Many cultivars are now available in red, pink, cream or marbled.

When blossoming, a poinsettia plant should be kept in a sunny, draft-free location. The blossoms will last several months if the temperature is kept fairly cool – not above 22° C during the day and not below 16° C at night. Allow the soil to dry out between waterings, and then give the plant a thorough soaking, but never leave it standing in water.

When the flowers begin to fade, cut the stems back to 15 - 20 centimetres. The plant should be kept relatively dry until the new growth appears. When the new leaves start to

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The Truth About The Poinsettia (cont'd)

develop place the plant in a bright location with a temperatures of 16° C - 19 ° C, and fertilize it regularly with a complete water soluble fertilizer.

A poinsettia plant can be put out in the garden after the danger of frost is over. It is advisable to leave it in the pot, but check to make sure that it has enough room for root growth. If there is not enough room, put the plant in a larger pot in a soil mix that drains well. To get a fuller plant and to prevent it from getting too tall , pinch it back during the growing season, and bring it indoors when night temperatures are around 10° C.

To get the plant to bloom again, you must carefully control the number of hours of total darkness the plant receives everyday. It needs 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness each night, starting October 1, for about 40 days or until the bracts start to show color. Any light will disturb the flowering cycle and prevent the development of the flowers and bracts, and a temperature of more than 19° C may delay or prevent bud setting.

Common problems of the poinsettia are:

- Leaves turning yellow and dropping.

This problem may be caused by allowing the plant to become too dry, by over-watering, by a draft or by insufficient light.

- Failure to flower.

This problem is caused by improper cultural practices — an inadequate dark period or a temperature that is too warm.

- Insects.

The most common insect pests are white flies, mealy bugs and scale. Use a recommended insecticide, warm soapy water or an alcohol swab.

December 21, 1981

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A CHRISTMAS STORY

A friend of mine named Paul received a new automobile from his brother as a Christmas present. When Paul came out of his office on Christmas eve, a street urchin was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it. "Is this your car, Mister?" he asked.

Paul nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas!" The boy was astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to you and it didn't cost you nothing? Boy I wish . . . ." He hesitated.

And Paul knew what he was going to wish. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said jarred Paul all the way down to his heels.

"I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that!"

Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, then impulsively he added, "Would you like to ride in my automobile?"

After a short ride, the urchin turned and with his eyes aglow, said "Mister, would you mind driving in front of my house?"

Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbors that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again.

"Will you stop where those two steps are?" the boy asked.

He ran up the steps. Then in a little while Paul heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast. He was carrying his little polio-crippled brother. He sat him down on the bottom step, then sort of squeezed up against him and pointed to the car.

"There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs. His brother gave it to him for Christmas and it didn't cost him a cent. And some day I'm gonna give you one just like it. . . . then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been

- (cont'd) -

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A Christmas Story (cont'd)

trying to tell you about."

Paul got out and lifted the little lad to the front seat of his car. The shining-eyed older brother climbed in beside him and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride.

That Christmas Eve Paul learned what Jesus meant when he said: "It is more blessed to give . . . . . ."

— Author Unknown

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December 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Voluntary Intake And Digestibility Of Forages 1

Checking Cattle Herds For Lice 3

Comprehensive Crop Chemical Program 5

Continuous Cropping — Summerfallowing Meeting 7

Restricted Feeding For Broilers 9

Ventilating Livestock Buildings 10

Choosing And Training A Stock Dog 11

Regional Swine Specialist Appointed for Vermilion 13

Market Economist Appointed 14

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December 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTARY INTAKE AND DIGESTIBILITY OF FORAGES

by Dr. G.W. Mathison
Department of Animal Science, University of Alberta

The nutritive value of forages depends to a great extent upon the digestibility of the forages within the animal and the voluntary consumption of the forage by the animal.

Most feeds for cattle or sheep have between 45 and 85 per cent of their energy digested when they are eaten. Feeds with an energy digestibility of 50 per cent will just allow an animal to maintain itself, while a ration with about 70 per cent energy digestibility will allow for maximum production.

Factors which can influence the digestible energy content of forage include maturity (up to 20 per cent loss in digestible energy content in forage dry matter per month), environmental conditions, leafiness (an increase of about 0.7 per cent in digestible energy content for each one per cent increase in leaves), forage species and variety, etc. The digestible energy content of hays and legumes can be predicted with an accuracy of about $\pm$ 7 per cent by the formula DE (Mcal/kg DM) = 4.297 - 0.0495 x % acid detergent fibre. DE stands for digestible energy; Mcal is megacalories; kg is kilograms; DM is dry matter; and acid detergent fibre is the fibre that remains after the feed has been treated in a solution which contains a special detergent and diluted sulfuric acid.

The voluntary intake of a forage is more important than digestibility in determining the value of forages in production rations. In ruminant animals, such as cattle and sheep, voluntary intake is usually limited by 'gut fill'. Thus when poor quality forages are fed, intake is low because it takes some time for material to pass out of the reticulorumen. Intake, and thus production of the animals, will increase with increases in forage quality. The amount of

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Voluntary Intake And Digestibility Of Forages (cont'd)

lignin, cellulose and hemicellulose in the forage, as measured by the neutral detergent fibre method, are negatively related to intake and also appear to be useful in predicting forage intake.

The relative value of forages in maintenance diets can be determined from the relative amount of digestible energy in each feed, providing the protein content is not excessively low (below 6 per cent) in the feeds. In production rations, the ratio of the amount of feed eaten daily above 1.5 per cent of the animal's body weight will give a rough estimate of the relative feed value for weight gain. More precise estimates involve measuring and comparing intakes of digestible energy above maintenance.

December 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHECKING CATTLE HERDS FOR LICE

Have you checked your cattle for lice? Last winter eight cattle deaths were reported in Alberta from louse infestations, all of which could have been prevented if the problem had been diagnosed early and the animals had been treated, says Dr. Ali Khan, pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

According to Dr. Khan, cattle that are severely infested with lice can lose up to a third of their red blood cells, and the resulting anaemia predisposes them to respiratory diseases. In addition to causing anaemia, a high louse population can cause general unthriftiness, reduce milk production and stunt growth in young animals.

Dr. Khan says that all cattle herds should also be checked for chronic or "carrier cows". These are usually older animals that become infested with lice every year, and they are usually the source of reinfestation for the entire herd. Such animals may abort their calves as a result of louse-induced anaemia if they are not treated.

Typical Symptoms of a Louse Infestation

Cattle that are heavily infested with lice can be recognized by their rough, patchy, dirty-looking coat and poor physical condition. If you examine the areas around the eyes and in the folds of the skin on the neck, you will see the slate-blue-colored adult lice which are about an eighth of an inch long. You will find that the heads of many of them are partly buried in the animal's skin, and that the cream-colored eggs or nits, which are attached to the hair, look like a string of beads. In very severe infestations, the animal's hair will be coated with blood from lice that have gorged themselves and then been crushed when their host scratched against something to relieve the irritation caused by the biting and sucking.

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Checking Cattle Herds For Lice (cont'd)

Treatment

There are 10 insecticides available under different brand names that will control lice on beef and dairy cattle. Those that can be used on beef cattle are Sevin, Coral, Ciodrin, Ruelene, Malathion, Ronnel, Rotenone and Neguvon. Those that are recommended for lactating dairy cattle are Sevin, Ciodrin, Malathion and Rotenone.

Dr. Khan stresses that systemic insecticides should never be used on lactating dairy cows, because the chemical will contaminate the milk, and that systemics should never be used on beef cattle that were not treated for warbles in the fall. The use of a systemic insecticide during December, January and February on animals that have warbles could cause a serious host-parasite reaction because the grubs are often in the esophagus or spinal column during this period. However, it is alright to use a systemic insecticide on beef cattle that were treated for warbles in the fall.

You can get more information on controlling cattle lice from Dr. Ali Khan, Animal Industry Division, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. (Telephone 427 9051) or by obtaining a copy of "Control of Cattle Lice" (FS 420/651-2). It is available from district agriculturists, agricultural fieldmen and the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

December 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPREHENSIVE CROP CHEMICAL PROGRAM

Starting January 4, 1982, Fairview College will be offering a concentrated, comprehensive 12-week program on crop chemicals.

Designed to meet the growing demand for specialized knowledge and training in the use and application of agricultural chemicals, the program, known as the Crop Chemicals Program, has been organized into three four-week modules, and each module has been further divided into four individual courses. This means that potential students can register for the complete program or for one or more of the weekly courses, depending upon their needs, interests and time.

Anyone who would like to obtain a pesticide applicator's licence will be able to satisfy the educational requirements for such a licence by taking the courses that will be given in week seven and week eight (February 15 - 26, 1982) of the program. Also, participants in the Alberta Green Certificate Program will be able to acquire competence in the use of farm chemicals by taking these courses.

The pesticide section of the program, for example, covers such things as the recognition of common crop pests, selecting the most suitable chemicals, selecting equipment and the use of safe and accurate application procedures. The objective in this section is to provide students with information on the most efficient and the most economical methods of using agricultural chemicals.

In addition to being valuable to farmers, the program will be valuable to all those who supply and serve them. They include farm chemical dealers and distributors, custom applicators, agricultural fieldmen, other service board employees, etc. Spiralling costs, the ever-increasing number of products appearing on the market and serious environmental

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Comprehensive Crop Chemical Program (cont'd)

concerns all point to the need for a better understanding of the complex nature of agricultural chemicals.

Fairview College engaged the services of Raf Khan to develop the program which emphasizes the practical aspects of using chemicals on the farm. Mr. Khan is a professional agrologist with more than 30 years of Canadian and international experience in the use of agricultural chemicals and has been involved in many pioneering projects concerned with the development of pesticides and fertilizers. He has recently been engaged in consulting work for the rapidly-growing aerial application industry.

Tuition for the full Crop Chemicals Program is $151.25. The fee for individual courses is $20 per week, and accommodation in the college's modern residences is available for $70 per month.

Anyone who is interested in registering for this unique new program should contact the Registrar, Fairview College, Box 3000, Fairview, Alberta, TOH 1LO (Telephone: 835-2213).

- 30 -

December 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTINUOUS CROPPING – SUMMERFALLOWING MEETING

Almost 300 farmers gathered at Lamont recently to hear a number of speakers discussing summerfallowing and continuous cropping. The meeting was sponsored by Alberta Agriculture with the support of the Two Hills, Vegreville, Ryley and Lamont district offices

Dr. Les Henry, a soil extension specialist from the University of Saskatchewan, and the first speaker on the program, outlined how farmers can determine the level of available soil moisture in their fields in the spring. He recommended a soil probe that can penetrate 45 inches into the ground for taking soil samples, and he pointed out that one foot of moist soil in loam and clay loam soil is approximately equivalent to one to 1.5 inches of water. Since every inch of water could mean an extra four to six bushels of wheat, determining available soil moisture is very important when making cropping decisions.

Dr. Henry also stressed the importance of the interaction of water and nitrogen. He suggested that it might be a good idea to reduce nitrogen application rates when water reserves are low. He then discussed nitrogen levels in the soil, where nitrogen comes from, the pros and cons of various sources of fertilizer and application rates.

Jerome Manchur, district agriculturist at Ryley, who attended the meeting, said that from Dr. Henry's comments it appears that spring banding (including anhydrous ammonia applications) gives the most beneficial results in central Alberta. The next most beneficial results apparently come from spring fertilizer broadcasting and incorporation; fall banding; and fall broadcasting and incorporation in that order.

The next speaker, Ellis Treffry, Alberta Agriculture's regional plant industry supervisor at Vermilion, talked about crop rotations. He listed weed and insect control, minimizing soil erosion and maintaining or increasing the soil's organic matter as reasons for crop

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Continuous Cropping – Summerfallowing Meeting (cont'd)

rotations. He said that a critical level is now being reached from the point of view of organic matter, and that a continuation of present practices will accelerate the depletion of organic matter. He believes that nitogen application rates may well have to be doubled or even tripled in the next 10 to 15 years to maintain present crop yields.

Mr. Treffry also discussed alternatives to summerfallowing, legume crops that could be considered for green manure crops and snow management.

Murray Green, Alberta Agriculture's farm machinery specialist at Airdrie, discussed tillage. He described various machines for applying fertilizers, one of which can "knife in" anhydrous ammonia with very little pre-tillage. He also pointed out that tillage is still the cheapest form of weed control, and he discussed various types of seed drills, some of which appear to be able to do a better job than the seed drills that are being used today.

Dave Hoar, Alberta Agriculture's regional farm economist at Red Deer, spoke about the "dollars and sense" of continuous cropping compared with summerfallowing. He had a chart which indicated that a farmer would need a summerfallow yield of about 75 bushels per acre of barley to obtain returns that were similar to those obtained from a stubble yield of 50 bushels per acre. Although these figures would vary in different situations, they show that summerfallow yields have to be considerably higher than continuous cropping yields to be competitive.

"One of the main points that came out of the producer panel discussions", says Mr. Manchur, "was that continuous cropping is on the increase".

- 30 -

December 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESTRICTED FEEDING FOR BROILERS

Results of two experiments on the effect of restricting the feed of broiler breeder chickens that were carried out at Alberta Agriculture's poultry plant near Edmonton show that it reduced feed consumption by 18 per cent.

The two strains of broiler breeding stock that were used in the experiments were the Hubbard and the Shaver. They were reared on a restricted feeding regime known as the skip-a-day program which is advocated by the companies that produce these strains.

Mario Rebolledo, in charge of the poultry plant, reports that the birds were randomly divided into four groups when they commenced to lay at 26 weeks and were fed either a high energy corn-based ration or a low energy wheat-based ration. Each ration was fed either on a free-choice basis or on a restricted basis, and the experiment was terminated after 36 weeks.

The final body weights in the two groups fed rations on a free-choice basis were higher than those in the groups fed a restricted ration. However, the production rate of both broiler strains, calculated on a hen-day basis, was not affected by the energy level in the rations, the feed restriction or the year in which the experiment was conducted.

Restricted feeding of the high energy corn ration and the lower energy wheat ration resulted in significantly less feed being required to produce a dozen hatching eggs than was the case when the rations were fed free-choice. Although, some variability was noted in hatchability of fertile eggs and in the size of eggs laid between the two years that the experiments were carried out, the differences did not seem to be related to the different feeding regimes.

- 30 -

Alberta
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Communications Division

December 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VENTILATING LIVESTOCK BUILDINGS

Fresh air inlets are extremely important in any livestock ventilating system.

There are a number of ways that you can check to see whether they are working properly. One of the best ways is to note how the animals are acting, especially when they are free to move around in the pen or building. Animals will tend to avoid places that they find uncomfortable and seek out those that are more comfortable.

You can check the air patterns by introducing smoke into the airstream and observing its movement. Smoke generating equipment is generally available from safety supply houses.

Condensation patterns will show you where the air circulation is not adequate. A velometer can be used to make sure that the air velocity at the air inlets is within recommended ranges.

Air inlets are usually built with ridgid polystyrene foam insulation board. It is not expensive and is ideal for inlet flaps because it does not warp or sweat from moisture. The extruded, high density type is preferable because it is stiffer than the cheaper bead board type and more durable. It is also important that the inlet system be rigid enough to maintain a uniform inlet opening along its length.

Detailed information on constructing side air inlets and centre air inlets; sizing air intakes; adjusting air inlets and recommended fan locations are contained in a publication entitled "Fresh Air Inlets and Fan Location for the Ventilation of Livestock Buildings" (Agdex FS 717-4). Copies can be obtained from your district agriculturist or the Publications Office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

-30-

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December 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHOOSING AND TRAINING A STOCK DOG

A working stock dog is probably the most accommodating and adaptable animal on the farm, and as wages continue to escalate, his value continues to increase, regardless of the type of livestock kept.

How does one find a dog that has a strong hunting instinct, which is the foundation of a good herding instinct, according to Tom Seaborn, district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House and a trainer of stock dogs. He says "The best way to get a good stock dog is to choose one that has been bred for this purpose". The border collie is such a dog (not all black and white dogs are border collies!). It has been bred for years for its ability to herd and to please its master. You should also choose one whose ancestors were good working dogs.

When you find the right dog, the first thing you must do is instill into him that you are his master. This means that he must respond instantaneously to the six or seven commands you will probably use for all his work.

A question often asked by people with a young dog is "Should I use my old dog to teach him how to work". "The answer", says Mr. Seaborn, "is an emphatic no". For one thing the presence of another dog will put pressure on the bond that you have, hopefully, established between yourself and the dog you are training. And secondly, the young dog will learn the bad habits of the older dog a lot faster than he will learn its good ones.

Since dogs make better servants when they like you, rather than when they fear you, do not hit your dog with your hand, which you would normally use for giving signals. Mr. Seaborn says the best punishment for a border collie, apart from talking to him or changing the tone of your voice, is to either lock him in his pen until he has cooled down (and may be until you have cooled down too) or to pick him up by the scruff of his neck and shake him. The first type of punishment is effective because the dog is deprived of the work he loves to do. The second type of punishment is based on achieving the same kind of submission a mother wolf gets from her pups when she shakes them.

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Choosing and Training A Stock Dog (cont'd)

Mr. Seaborn points out that there is a great deal of difference between a disobedient dog and one that does not know what is expected of him. A dog cannot be disobedient until he knows what he is supposed to do, but many are punished just because their owner has failed to make this clear. "Remember", says Mr. Seaborn, "it is harder to build a dog up than to knock him down, especailly a dog like a border collie".

How do you actually train a stock dog? Commands like"down" and "come" are drilled into the dog in the same way as they would be drilled into him in an obedience course (a long rope is usually used for this part of the training). The dog does not have to go down but must stop any motion. In fact, it is not as good if he does actually go down because it takes time for him to come up again. Some people use the words "left" or "right" for direction, while others use the terms "come by" or "way to me". Still others use whistles because they carry further. Mr. Seaborn likes to use the dog's name with a verbal command because he finds it easier to work more than one dog in this way and because the name gets the dog's attention quickly.

"When training a young dog always keep an idea of the thing you are trying to accomplish in your mind, " says Mr. Seaborn, "and remember :

. First experiences always create stronger and more lasting associations than subsequent ones.

. Praise to a working dog is more work.

. Driving is an unnatural trained process.

. What you say doesn't matter, but consistency does.

. Do not let a pup get hurt before he gets hardened off.

. Make sure a pup can run faster than the stock he is working with.

. Stop bad habits in the bud.

. Redirect the negative with a positive command.

. Be careful not to punish for a natural thing.

. Work on controllable situations first and do not blow your cool.

. Biting and barking should only be tolerated by command after the dog has been trained."

December 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL SWINE SPECIALIST APPOINTED FOR VERMILION

The head of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch, Fred Schuld, has announced the appointment of Phil Thacker to the position of regional swine specialist at Vermilion.

Mr. Thacker will work with local district agriculturists, other specialists and the swine industry in general in the northeast region of Alberta to co-ordinate Alberta Agriculture's swine extension activities there.

This will involve meetings, short courses, office interviews and farm visits related to swine production. Mr. Thacker will also work with such programs as the department's swine record of performance and artificial insemination programs.

He comes from British Columbia and obtained his B.Sc. (animal science) from the University of British Columbia in 1974, having specialized in animal nutrition as it relates to dairy cattle. Four years later he graduated from the same university with an M.Sc. (swine nutrition) and his field of specialization was protein calorie malnutrition. He obtained a Ph. D. (swine nutrition) from the University of Alberta this year. His field of specialization was lipid metabolism in swine.

Mr. Thacker has worked on farms in British Columbia and has assisted as a laboratory instructor in chemistry, laboratory technique, physiology, animal production and anatomy at the University of British Columbia. And he has published several papers on swine nutrition in scientific journals and participated in a number of scientific meetings. He has also published papers in the University of Alberta's Feeders Day Reports.

- 30 -

December 28, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET ECONOMIST APPOINTED

David Walker, head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, has announced the appointment of Deborah Thorsen to the position of marketing economist.

As a marketing economist, Ms. Thorsen will assist the senior market analysts, especially in the areas of grain and livestock, and she will carry out research to provide them with technical information. She will also be responsible for providing sheep producers with up-to-date information on imports, exports, prices, production, slaughter, etc.

Ms. Thorsen was born in Colorado and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from the University of Georgia in 1977 with a B.Sc., having specialized in animal science. She then started on her M.Sc. at the same university and graduated in 1980, having specialized in agricultural economics and international trade. Altogether Ms. Thorsen spent seven years at the University of Georgia.

- 30 -

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